

Wh-y (a-n)

K... THE

1081. d. 13.

2

W I D O W

By J. W. Wood

OF THE

W O O D.



L O N D O N:

Printed for C. CORBETT, opposite St.
Dunstan's Church in Fleet-Street.

MDCCLV.

The Widow of the Wood, daughter of Sir
W. Woolfeley; she married ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~grave~~ ^{grave}
father of the counsellor, who by ~~death~~ ^{death}, and
the loss of her jointure, sustained a most con-
siderable loss. *June 1702*

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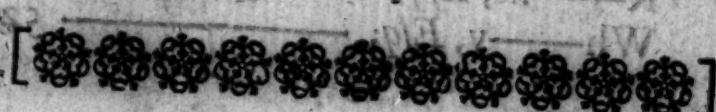
"A scarce, suppressed book, (written by Benj. Victor, the
Dramatist) relative to the Wolseley family of Stafford-
shire."



IMBOLIV

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R. ———, Esq. late Wife of J. ———



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T.H.E.



W I D O W
O F T H E
W O O D.

THE Author of the following
Sheets is far from supposing
that the unaccountable Facts
they contain, could meet
with Credit from the rational Part of
Mankind, if a late Motion in a high
Court of Justice had not demanded the
Affidavits of several Persons of undoubt-
ed Credit to support them; which the
Reader will here find properly inserted.
B If

If the following Narrative had been sent forth into the World without those Advantages to prove the Veracity of the Facts, I am certain it would not only be received as a Romance, but by the judicious Part of its Readers, despis'd for its Absurdities; for even the many fictitious Stories that have lately been published (from the very fertile Brains of our present Set of Novel Writers) have all, at least, this Merit, that their INCIDENTS are within the Pale of *Probability*.

But the Actions of the HEROINE of the following Scene, are above ROMANCE! and would even puzzle the *Art of Sophistry* to account for their Motives!

This Lady's Maiden Name was N—y, descended from a very worthy Family of Distinction in *England*. She is of middle Stature; genteely form'd; her Complexion fair; her Face oval; her Hair, the true *English* Colour, pale brown; her Eyes blue, large, languishing, and full of Love.

At the Age of Twenty, being thus agreeable in her Person, with the charming Addition of Twelve Thousand Pounds to her Portion, the Reader will readily suppose she had many Admirers; but the successful one was her late Husband *John Wb—y*, Esq; a young Gentleman of a good Family at great *H-y-w—d* in *Staffordshire*, and at that Time a Student at the Temple, to whom she was privately married, *without the Consent of her Relations!*

Mr. *Wb—y* being the happy JASON, and thus blest with the *Golden Fleece*, he prov'd a worthy, and an honest Husband, by making a *Voluntary Settlement* of Four Hundred Pounds a Year out of his Estate, at the Death of his Father. And after living six Years with his Lady, in a mutual State of Affection, he died of the Small Pox, about Two Years ago, and left two Sons, the one about Five, and the other Two Years old, both happily provided for. A Brother of this Lady's dying about the same Time, left her the Interest of Four Thousand Pounds,

which, at her Death, reverts to her youngest Son——add to this Ninety Pounds a Year, allow'd her for the Maintenance of her two Sons, and her Income may be computed at more than Six Hundred Pounds *per Annum*.

Thus was she happily situated in the Year 1752 in a fine new House, just built by her late Husband, on a Spot called *Wh—y Wood*, on the Borders of Sir *W——m W——y's* Park; with a REPUTATION *untainted*; and visited by most of the Persons of Condition in that Neighbourhood.

Sir *W——m W——y's* Lady dying the Beginning of that Year in *London*, he retired in *April* to *W——y Hall*, which is unfortunately situated too close to *Wh——y Wood*. Soon after Sir *W——m's* two Sons coming there from School at *Whitsuntide*, and Mrs. *Wh——y's* from *Stafford*, this enterprizing Lady sent her Sons to *W——y Hall*, to visit the two young Gentlemen. As these two Families had not the least Inter-course for some Years, and were not even on visiting Terms, this unexpected

ed Advance surprized Sir *W——m*; but it was not a little encreas'd by a Message that soon followed to invite the two Master *W——y*'s to return the Visit, which was consented to; and to shew the Widow's growing Regard, she sent a Servant in the Evening to desire Leave to detain them to Supper, which was granted; and her eldest Son, and her Woman, in her Coach, attended them to *W——y Hall* at Night.

About a Month after this Incident, Sir *W——m*'s Brother, Sir *R——d W——y*, Baronet of *Ireland* (who had been at *London* with his Lady) came to his House, for a few Days, in their Way to *Chester*: An Hour after their Arrival, a Message came to Lady *W——y* from Mrs. *Wb——y* to enquire of her Ladyship's Health after her Journey, and to let her know she would have the Pleasure of paying her Respects to her the next Day. Accordingly at the Visiting Hour she came; and behav'd like an accomplish'd, sprightly Woman on the Occasion. When she was gone,

Lady *W——y* address'd herself to Sir *W——m* to know who this agreeable, unexpected Visitor, was? to which he reply'd, Madam, she is my near Neighbour — a young Widow — and this is the first Time she has favour'd this House with a Visit for some Years past, which, to be sure, is on your Ladyship's Account — Is it so (says Lady *W——y* smiling) come, come, Sir *W——m*, if I have any Penetration, this Visit is on *your own* Account, not *mine*!

Soon after Sir *R——d W——y's* Departure, Mr. *V——r*, an old Acquaintance of Sir *W——m's*, who has been settled these seven Years past in an Employment in *Dublin*, and who constantly corresponded with him, was invited over by his Friend to spend the last Summer (as Sir *W——m* express'd it in his Letters, on Account of his being a Widower) at *W——y Hall*. Agreeable to the Invitation, that Gentleman arriv'd there at the Beginning of the Month of *July*; and in their retired Hours, upon an Enquiry after his Neighbours, Sir *W——m* enter-

entertained him with the above Passages of the young Widow, and her Health was generally drank in the usual Round of Toasts.

As *Sunday Evening* is the usual Visiting Time of the Gentry in all Counties in *England*, it soon came to the Turn of assembling at the Widow *W——y's*; and Sir *W——m* propos'd to his Friend, their going thither; which was immediately agreed to; and accordingly the Chariot was order'd; when they came there, Sir *W——m* introduc'd his Friend Mr. *V——r*; and after the usual Time was spent among a Set of formal Faces, made up for the Occasion, the Visiting Ladies retired. Sir *W——m* and his Friend, being thus left alone with the Widow, after the lively Chat of an Hour, they also rose to take their Leave, when she address'd herself in the following Words: "Sir
" *W——m*, if you, and your Friend,
" will stay with me, and take a slight,
" cold Supper, I shall be glad of your
" Company: You know I am lonely,
" and it will be Charity."

8 *The Widow of the Wood.*

As it is natural to consent very readily to any thing that is agreeable to us, the Lady's Request was soon granted; and the Hour of Departure arrives always insensibly, and too soon, to sprightly Company.

A Day or two after this, Mr. *V—r* went to make a Visit to his old Acquaintance the Reverend Mr. *Cl—s*, the Curate of the Parish, who walk'd with him in his Way Home to *W—y* Bridge. As they walk'd, Mr. *Cl—s* ask'd him, if it was his Opinion that his Friend Sir *W—m* had any Thoughts of marrying again? Mr. *V—r* reply'd, I think he has, if he could meet with an agreeable Woman, suitable to him in Age, and Fortune. There is a Lady (says Mr. *Cl—s*) that I know, of a suitable Fortune, if you don't think her too young, that I am sure he may have, and nam'd Mrs. *Wh—y*. Pray, reply'd Mr. *V—r*, what Reason have you to think so? I have Reason (says Mr. *Cl—s*) and, if you please, you may inform Sir *W—m* so from me—Very well, (replied

(replied Mr. *V——r*) I will—— but if there is no no other Objection, Mr. *C!——s*, the Lady is too young for him.

At Mr. *V——r*'s return Home, he informed his Friend of this Conversation; and Sir *W——m* then confess'd, that several Persons in that Neighbourhood, had given him the same Hints, and seem'd as if they spoke from Certainties. This, of Course, introduc'd frequent Conversations on this Subject between themselves——in which Sir *W——m* always declared his Desire to have an agreeable suitable Companion, to pass the Evening of Life with; as he is a domestic Man, and loves Family Oeconomy; but that it never was his Intention to make an Address to a young Lady; — and yet—If a young Lady of *Fortune*—of an UNQUESTIONED *Character*, thus hangs out the Flag, and plainly discovers to all his Acquaintance that it is *her Desire* to be his *Wife*! pray, speak, frail Mortals, is not the Temptation too great for Mortality?

Some few Days after this, Sir *W—m* and his Friend were invited to dine with the Widow *Wh—y*, where they had the Pleasure of finding Mrs. *E—e* the Wife of *F—s E—e*, Esq; one of the Masters in Chancery: This Lady, at her Departure, insisted on the Widow's fixing a Day to dine with her at *S—f—d*, and a Day was fixed in the following Week; upon which Mrs. *E—e* invited Sir *W—m* and his Friend to be of the Party. When the Time was near, Mr. *V—r* observed how strangely disagreeable it was, that they two were to set out to a Place twelve Miles off in a Chariot, and the Widow, in that Neighbourhood, to go to the same House, *alone*, in a large Coach—an that a Conjunction must surely be pleasant to all Parties. Sir *W—m* was of the same Mind; and went that Day to the Widow to propose his Horses, and Coachman (as he knew that Road better than her's) to drive her Coach with all Three—but the subtil Widow was too artful to admit of it—her Objection was, “ You
 “ know,

“ know, Sir *W——m*, our Way is
“ through *Stafford* Town, and the
“ People there seeing you in my Coach,
“ will be apt to surmise strange Things
“ —therefore we had better go in our
“ separate Carriages—It must be so”—
and so it was. But at their return
Home at Eleven o’Clock at Night, Sir
W——m, and his Friend, had a ready
Conveyance in her Coach, because by
the Time they reach’d *Stafford*, the In-
habitants were asleep; and among the
rest a young Gentleman who will make
no inconsiderable Figure in the latter
End of this History.

Subsequent Conversations, and Re-
marks, between Sir *W——m* and his
Friend, led them at last, to conclude,
that it would become a Reproach to
Sir *W——m* not to put the necessary
Question to the expecting Widow!

And yet, Mr. *V——r* was constantly
throwing in, at all Openings, the fright-
ful Disproportion, and the vast Odds
of TWENTY EIGHT against SIXTY!
——but then——to alleviate this

unanswerable Objections——this incurable Malady! the following Lenitives, or rather Opiates, were introduced—(viz.) that she was a Lady of *unquestionable Virtue*! that she was a Lady, though *Young*, of an *uncommon Cast of Mind*! that she had entirely devoted herself to a *RURAL Life*! that she despised *LONDON*, with its *Pomps and Vanities*! and that with all these great Considerations, Vigorous, Hail, *THREE-SCORE*, might stand a good Chance in the Chace, with *flegmatic, prudent, TWENTY-EIGHT*!

The Affair being thus *wisely* stated, the wished-for Question was (the next Day) put to the Widow;—to which she conveyed her *Consent* in the following agreeable Manner:——“*Indeed, Sir*—“*W——m, I think you may do better*—“*for yourself.*” — To which Answer the Reader may easily suppose the Reply of the raptured Lover, and save me the Trouble of relating it.

The next Evening, at the Hour of Eight, Sir *W——m* repaired to his yielding Widow—At which Interview she
not

not only consented to a **SPEEDY** Marriage, but insisted on its being performed in the utmost **SECRECY** ! that their mutual Friend, Mr. *Cl——ts*, (who must marry them) his Wife, and Mr. *V——r*, were all that should be acquainted with it.

At Sir *W——m*'s Return Home at Night to his Friend, he informed him of what the Lady had insisted on; and his Remarks threw them both into the utmost Consternation. Mr. *V——r* was greatly alarmed and discontented at the Thoughts of a **SUDDEN** and **SECRET** Marriage; and therefore intreated his Friend, when he visited the Lady next Day, to ask her Leave to permit him to wait on her alone, at what Time she pleased to appoint, to converse with her on that important Subject. Sir *W——m* did so; and the next Day a Card came from the Lady to Mr. *V——r*, to invite him at Seven o'Clock, that Evening to the Interview.

I must, here, beg Leave to be indulged in a Digression, which, perhaps, my Reader will not be sorry for.

The

The Servant who brought this Card to Mr. K—— at W——y hall, was R——d D——y, a Footman of the Widow's, that we shall have frequent Occasion to make Mention of. After this Man had delivered his Card, and received his Answer, he went into the Servants Hall, who were then at Dinner, and there, among many other impudent, free Expressions, were the following—"That
 " he understood their Master was going
 " to be married to his Lady—that if
 " he did—he should not lose his Place,
 " he should be provided for—his Mistress must take care of that—the
 " red not do otherwise—for he could
 " bring her on her Knees for her former
 " Sins!" These strange, scandalous Expressions against his Lady, a young Widow too! so highly injurious to her Character, induced the Servants to agree that it was proper their Master's Friend, Mr. K——, should be informed of what this Man had said of his own Lady, and one so likely to be theirs! for Sir W——'s constant Visits (generally twice a Day) alone

alone) had spread, by this Time, almost over the whole Country.

At Seven that Evening Mr. V—— repaired to his Appointment with the Widow, whom he found alone to receive him; he addressed himself by expressing how sensible he was of the Honour the Lady and his Friend had done him, by making him the Confidant in the Affair he was come about—that he confessed himself greatly surpris'd at the Account brought him by Sir W——, that she was pleas'd to insist on a speedy and secret Wedding—that as they were both Persons of happy, independant Fortunes—seemingly free from all Injunctions—all Obligations—that it was a kind of Disgrace to Persons so situated, to have so great, so important an Alliance performed in SECRECY!—that he had been inform'd her first Marriage with her late Husband was in SECRET—than many Reasons—such as her violent Love—her Youth—might be urg'd in Excuse for that Wedding, but what could be advanced for this? Which appeared—and, indeed

deed ought to be the Match of REASON, and not PASSION. " Permit me, " therefore, Madam, (continued he) " to beg you to alter your Design of " SECRECY, and to let me have the " Happiness of seeing, or, at least, of " hearing, that the Marriage was solemnized *publickly* in the Face of the " World."

At this rational and close Attack, the Lady seemed not a little confused—but after recovering herself, she said, " I see Sir, you are, in your own Mind, " against this Affair—and therefore I " would have you advise your Friend " to think of it no further."—On his Inquiry for her Reasons to support that Opinion—she answered, that to insist on a *publick* Marriage, was to have *no* Marriage! that to make it publick would call all her Relations about her, whom, she knew, would be violently against it, and particularly her Brother, who was a Man of a very warm Temper, and would be down with her in a very short Time after it came to his Knowledge—and raise all her Friends in the Country about

about her to obstruct the Match! — On this Mr. *K—r* asked her, how this hot Brother was likely to behave, when he heard she was married to Sir *W—m*, *secretly?* — To which she replied, smiling, “*Why— he can’t undo it: Can he?*” This last Remark, so agreeably convey’d, seem’d to employ so eager a Desire on the Side of the Lady, to have the Marriage secure, that this Advocate told her he would give her no further Trouble on that Point, which was sufficiently answer’d— but that there was *One other*, which he must beg leave to mention.— That it was necessary she should sign a Deed of Release, to renounce all Claim of Power on the *W—y* Estate, if (as it was natural and probable) she should survive Sir *W—m*. — And the Reasons he advanced to support this Motion were as follows: — That she was in the Possession of Six hundred Pounds a Year for her Life, which, at her Death, would revert to the *Wb—y* Children; — that Sir *W—m* had four Children already, and was very likely to have a new Race from this intended Marriage, which

which must all be provided for out of the *W——y* Estate—that it was therefore to her Honour to sign such a necessary Deed, previous to the Marriage.—To this she replied, “ Sir, you talk like
“ a very good Friend of Sir *W——m*’s
“ —but if a Friend of mine was present,
“ I don’t doubt but you would hear
“ some powerful Reasons advanced on
“ my Side—But, Sir, to cut off all further Arguments, I assure you, it is
“ not my Intention to do the least Injury to the *W——y* Estate; and I
“ will do every Thing necessary to
“ prove it.”

Here followed some fine Compliments, due to the Lady’s distinguished Understanding, and then Mr. *V——r* told her, he had nothing to add but the most pleasing Circumstance of all, which was, THE FIXING THE DAY OF MARRIAGE, and the Manner how it could be best effected, agreeable to her own Plan; that as he had received the Honour of being appointed by herself to give her away, the Wedding must be performed one Day in the next Week,

as

as his Employment would soon after call him to *Dublin*—that he recommended the *Tuesday* following, the 25th Day of *August*, the first Day of the *Litchfield* Races, as the most promising, since on that Day all the Neighbours of Condition, as well as the idling People, would go thither. — This Motion pleased the Lady extreamly—Mr. *Cl——ts* (added she) must send all his Family to the Races that Morning; and I will send my Man *Richard* there, as he is the only Servant I have that is *likely to make Discoveries*. And, indeed she confirmed her Fear of him by her extraordinary Behaviour; for though they sat alone, in a large Parlour, and the Doors shut—she not only desired Mr. *K——* several Times to lower his Voice, but rose very often softly to open the Door that led to the Back Stairs, to peep if any one was listening, and said she knew the Curiosity of Servants.

Preliminaries being thus adjusted, they rose and went into another Parlour to Supper, where, as the famous *R——d D——y* was in waiting, nothing could be
spoke

spoke of but general Things; and, as it will hereafter be proved from the Affidavits, no Person appeared more chearful, and more happy, on this Occasion, than this Lrdy.

At Twelve o'Clock Mr. V——r took his Leave; and, having half a Mile to walk by Moon-light, by that Time he reached W——y-hall; he found Sir W——m in a CONDITION not very much like that of an IMPATIENT Lover—for he was FAST ASLEEP IN HIS BED!

The next Morning Sir W——m was informed of all that had passed at the Interview; and to proceed directly in the Affair Mr. Cl——ts was sent for, and being solemnly enjoined to Secrecy, Sir W——m told him all that had passed—and that the Lady and he, and his Friend, would all meet that Evening, at his House, at C-l-w--h, to play at Cards; and when alone, to settle the Affair: And that, in the mean Time, he should engage Mr. Cl——ts to be a Friend to the Cause.

The

The good-natured Mr. Cl——ts, being a sincere Wellwisher to both Parties, very chearfully promised his best Assistance. In the Evening they all met there; and after Tea, Cards, and other Visitors were withdrawn,—just before Supper—the Parson was asked to produce the usual Bond and Licence; Sir W——m and his Friend were joined in the Bond, which was duly executed, and the Licence filled up, with the Privy, and in the Presence of Mrs. Wb——y.

There now remained nothing material to be done but the drawing up and signing the beforementioned Deed—which Sir W——m and his Friend prepared the next Day—and Mr. V——r copied it fair, on Stamp Paper, with an Intent to carry it to the Lady the next Day, for the Honour of having her Name to it.

But that Day proving the *Sunday* before the appointed Day of Marriage, and the Widow having persuaded Mr. Cl——ts and his Wife to go home with her, in her Coach, from Church,
to

to Dinner, and hearing it dropt from them, that Mr. *V——r* intended to wait on her that Evening on Business—the Lady, very well guessing the Business, hurried off Mr. *Cl——ts* to *W——y-ball* on a Message of Importance.

He then found Sir *W——m* and his Friend walking on the Green—and said it was Mrs. *Wh——y's* Desire that Sir *W——m* would come to her that Evening, and not his Friend. Mr. *V——r* smiled, and, taking the Paper out of his Pocket, said, “I understand the Meaning of this Message.” —“The Widow thinks she can deal better with you than with me.—” “Here, Sir, take the Paper; but I beg you will promise me, before this Gentleman, that you will never marry her unless she signs that Deed.” —“Which Sir *W——m* solemnly promised—and in the Evening waiting on her with it; who, after reading it over, very much disliked it—and said, she would think of it, but did not care, by any means, to sign it.

On Sir *W——m's* Return home and informing his Friend of her Behaviour, they gave up all Thoughts of a Wedding on the following *Tuesday*, as settled. And Sir *W——m* repeated his Promise, and made the most firm Resolution, never to marry her, or any one, to the apparent Injury of his younger Children.

On the *Monday* and *Tuesday*, these Gentlemen were amused in their Morning and Evening Walks, by seeing the Widow going round all Sides of *W——y Hall*, in her Coach, alone, now to *Rugeley*—and soon after over the Bridge, twice or three times in the Day, to her most intimate Friends Mr. and Mrs. *Cl——s*.

And here it may be proper to resume the Affair of *R——d D——y*, since it was on this very *Wednesday Morning*, the 26TH OF AUGUST, he was examined as to the scandalous Expressions uttered against his Lady.

Sir *W——m's* House-keeper, Mrs. *W——r*, (a sensible, prudent Woman) was the Person appointed by the Ser-

wants to inform Mr. *V——r* of what had happened, who, taking the first Opportunity of his being alone, related the whole Affair; and added, that the Coachman, the Gardener, and the Groom (all three very honest Men, who have lived many Years in Sir *W——m*'s Service) were the Persons to prove it. Mr. *V——r* desired they might be sent to him, and they all declared they would swear those very Words were uttered in their Hearing, by *R——d D——y*, Mrs. *Wh——y*'s Footman. Mr. *V——r* took some Days to consider of it; but finding the Wedding likely to happen, upon Consideration, he did not think it proper that Sir *W——m* should marry a Lady who had been so much scandalized by her own Servant, before Men who were likely to owe her that Duty due to their Mistress. He therefore acquainted Sir *W——m* and Mr. *Cl——s* with the Affair, and all of them thought it was paying the Lady but due Respect (whom they all believed to be innocent) to make *Richard* own himself a Scoundrel, or to lay him open to the Resentment of his Mistress, for.

for his Punishment. This being agreed to; that Morning *Richard* was sent for to *W——y-ball*, in the Presence of the three Gentlemen, and charged with what he had uttered, which he flatly denied. He was asked, if he insisted on those Men declaring it to his Face—He did—and the Men were called in separately, and they declared the same; which reduced *Richard* to this Alternative, to sign a Paper to confess himself guilty of the Crime, and to ask his Lady's Pardon for the same, or to make the Thing publick, and, by that means, compel his Lady to prosecute him to justify her Character. He wisely chose the first; and subscribed himself a Liar and a Rascal. After which, Sir *W——m*'s Servants were called in, and the Paper read to them; and they were informed, that as *R——d D——y* had owned his Crime under his Hand, if they hereafter mentioned it to the Discredit of the said Lady, that the Crime would become their own.

In the Evening of this WEDNESDAY,
the FAMOUS 26TH OF AUGUST! a most

extraordinary Affair happened ! which the Reader will find in the Lady's notorious Affidavit most remarkably set forth ! but, which, in TRUTH, was as follows :

The Widow's great Fondness for her two very good Friends Mr. and Mrs. *Cl—ts*, carried her that Morning alone, to make them a Visit, and to complain of her ill Health—or rather her discontented Mind.—The good-natured Mrs. *Cl——ts* behaved like herself on the Occasion ; and as Eating and Drinking are commonly administered, (which too often increase those Disorders they are given to remove) Chocolate was brought and *Madeira* Wine—and a little of both was very proper for this Lady, after a long Walk between Breakfast and Dinner, and whose ill Health was affected—and therefore she wanted but little Persuasion to partake of both —But yet (Fine-ladylike) she still complained : And though her Bedchamber was the fittest Place for her Complaints, she discovered no Inclination to go home—and, in short, was easily prevailed

vailed on by Mrs. Cl—ts to send for her Cloaths, and dress there, and stay the Day with her. This was done, no doubt, with the Hopes Sir W——m would accidentally, or designedly, call in there.—However, not willing to leave it to Chance, it was proposed he should be sent for ; which was done ; and about Six in the Evening he went there.—The Lady received him with Complaints of her Health, and the Treatment her Servant, R——d D——y, had received that Morning at W——y Hall. These Complaining (which were not a little vehement) threw the Lady into the most violent hysteric Fit that ever was seen ! This, no doubt, surprised all the Company ; and the common Things in those Cases were provided.—While she continued in this Fit on the Couch, supported by Sir W——m, her Head reclined on his Breast, she frequently cried out, *Why won't you send for Sir W——m ?—Tell him, I love him dearly—I won't injure his Children—That V——r has undone me !—Oh ! where's Sir W——m ?*

The Fit went off, as usual, in a Shower of Tears—When the Lady was recovered, Sir *W——m* expressed his Desire to compleat her Happiness with his own; and added, “that the Delay
“ was of her own making—that she
“ knew the Terms.”——

Soon after this, Mr. *Cl——t*’s Son and Daughters came into the Room to Supper, and a young Gentleman (a Lieutenant of a Man of War) who had been some Time a Visitor there—and so this famous Scene ended, which the Reader will find gloriously improved in the following Pages.

When Sir *W——m* returned Home at Night, he acquainted his Friend with the surprising Adventure he had met with at Mr. *Cl——t*’s House, who expressed no small Dislike to the Lady’s mysterious Conduct—but gave it as his Opinion, that she would certainly sign the Deed, and marry him.

Mr. *V——r*’s Departure from *W——y* being fixed for the *Saturday* following, the 29th Day of *August*; and finding, by the foregoing Passage at Mr. *Cl——t*’s,
that

that the Lady was full of Resentment against him, which supposing it then to arise from his having acted a faithful Part to his Friend, as well as for her true Interest and Honour ; (all of which had been mistaken by her) I say, on that Supposition he wrote the Widow the following Letter—which he gave to Sir *W——m*'s Butler to carry as directed, and delivered a Copy of the same, sealed up, into the Hands of Sir *W——m*, (at the Time of taking his Leave) which he desired might not be read till the Afternoon—Which Letter is as follows :

To Mrs *W^H———^Y*.

W——y-hall, 29th Aug. 1752.

M A D A M,

I T is with Concern I bear of your ill State of Health, since it deprives me of the Honour of waiting on you to take my Leave, being to set forward for Ireland this Morning.

C 3

I had

I had promised myself the Pleasure of leaving you in an Alliance, that, in my firm Opinion, had a Prospect of Happiness to two worthy independant Persons.

I must beg Leave to observe, Madam, that my Friend's Conduct in this Affair has been uniform and affectionate; and that the Objection you have made (which has prevented the Completion of his Wishes) is a Subject of the greatest Wonder and Surprise to me.

I heartily wish I may never meet with a more difficult Task, than that of convincing any rational Friend of yours, that it is for your own Honour and Felicity to sign that necessary Deed, which I proposed, and Sir W——m presented to you!

It is obvious, that the Relations of the W——y Family cannot possibly visit you on any other Terms; nor can you receive the Congratulations of common Friends and Visitors on that Occasion, with a good Grace, when they know you have it in your Power to injure the Children of this Family, in so severe and so unjust a Manner!

—You, who ought to be looked on as their

Pa-

Patroneſs, their Proteſtreſs, will be dreaded and feared as a Perſon who demanded a Power to deſtroy them! and my Friend muſt be deemed a very weak, or a very worthleſs Man, for depending on Promiſſory Honour in a Marriage-Contract, of that ſerious and important Nature, directly contrary to the Laws and Cuſtoms of the World in theſe common Caſes.

It is highly fitting and neceſſary, that a Proviſion ſhould be ſecured on the W——y Eſtate, for the expected Iſſue from this Marriage; ſince your Jointure muſt revert to the Wh——y Children: And that a Lady, at preſent, in an affluent Fortune, ſhould have an Appointment out of it, ſuitable to her Rank and ſuppoſed Expence. —

How amiable muſt you appear in an Alliance founded on mutual Affection! As you have both independant Fortunes, why ſhould that beſt Cement of your Happineſs be deſtroyed by any venal, ſordid Views, on either Side? and by an Act that muſt certainly bring Contempt on him, and Diſgrace on you!

I am ſure, I can ſafely depend on that good Senſe I know you are bleſſed with,

32 *The Widow of the Wood.*

among many other valuable Qualities, to think sincerely and properly on this Affair; and then, I doubt not, but among the smiling Ceremonies of an envious World, on your happy Marriage, you will receive the sincere, valuable Congratulations of a few select Friends; in which Number be pleased to do me the Honour to admit,

M A D A M,

Your Most Obedient

Humble Servant,

B. V——R.

The Reader will easily perceive by this Letter, and by the whole Conduct of the Gentleman who wrote it, that he thought he left his Friend in some Danger; and therefore, as the parting Stroke, he delivered his Sentiments in Writing, in the above plain, powerful Manner, which he left in the Hands of both the Parties.

This Letter was carried forthwith, as directed; and the Afternoon of that

SA-

SATURDAY, THE 29TH OF AUGUST,
1752, Mrs. Wh——y wrote the follow-
ing Answer to Sir W——m (viz.)

To Sir W——m W——y, Bart.

Saturday, 4 o'Clock.

S I R,

*I Am obliged to go out this Afternoon,
but shall return Home between Seven
and Eight o'Clock. If you are not engaged
at that Time, shall be extreamly glad to see
you. I was, this Morning, favoured with
a Letter from Mr. V——r; I am sorry
he should judge so hardly of one, who, in
spite of him, and all the World, will ever
be a sincere Wellwisher to yourself and Fa-
mily.*

I am, S I R,

Your Most Obliged.

Humble Servant,

A——Wh——y

Sir *W——m* paid that Visit agreeable to the Appointment, which was trifled away in ceremonious, obliging Speeches on both Sides; for, as the Widow imagined, that same cruel OBSTACLE, that DEED, to renounce all Claim of Dower, was a Stroke of Mr. *V——r's*, to break off a Match, she believed, (and, perhaps was not out in her Suspicion) he never heartily liked; the Lady was therefore in Hopes, as Sir *W——m* had lost his mischievous Adviser, that a few Days employed in bewitching Smiles—soft, tender Speeches—with, now and then, a yielding, melting Kiss;—I say, the Widow had some Reason to hope, that these Allurements would soon inspire her Lover to grant her better Terms. In this Scheme she engaged her very sincere flexible Friend, Mr. *Cl——ts*, who, for her late Husband's Sake, (whose Memory he respected) would have got the best Terms in his Power, for his good Widow; and accordingly took the first Opportunity to apply to Sir *W——m* on that Subject, before the Lady; and much better

Terms

Terms were granted her, as will soon appear by the Marriage-Articles. Fortho' Sir *W——m* remained firm to the Point he had promised, that the before-mentioned Deed should positively be signed by her, previous to the Marriage, yet we shall find a Deed which she prevailed on Mr. *Cl——ts* to draw in her Favour, (and of her own dictating) which was signed by Sir *W——m*.

In such like doubtful Affairs ten or twelve Days were employed, which brought on the 21st of *September*, (New Stile) and introduced a new Person in the Scene, which was Lieutenant *R——d W——y*, (eldest Son of Sir *R——d W——y*, of *Ireland*, Baronet) who came from his Regiment at *Manchester* to pay his Uncle a short Visit. The very Evening of his Arrival at *W——y-hall*, he was carried, and introduced to the Widow, at her constant Visiting-house, the Parson's; and was soon informed, not only by every one he met, but by the Eyes of the Parties, that a Wedding was near; and accordingly on SATURDAY, THE FAMOUS 23^D OF SEP-

SEPTEMBER, when Sir *W——m* and his Nephew were preparing to set out soon after Dinner to an appointed Visit at *Wh——y-Wood*, they were surprized by the Appearance of Mr. *Cl——ts*, who came to tell them, that Mrs. *Wh——y* dined unexpectedly at his House, and designed to continue there; and desired Sir *W——m*'s and his Nephew's Company—and had made some whimsical Signs that pointed towards Marriage that Evening! The three Gentlemen hastened to *C-l-w—b*, and found the Widow and Mrs. *Cl——ts* in the Garden. The good Woman of the Mansion was prepared by her artful Visitor, to give the Word for propagating Matrimony; and, no doubt, the Remembrance of her own happy Time animated her not a little, and made her remarkably notable on that good Occasion! — Sir *W——m* behaved on this sudden Attack like an old Soldier! and as soon as he was informed of the Lady's Desire to be married that Evening, he replied, like *Rowe*; though not quite so poetical——

“ Thou

“Thou hast ta'en me somewhat unawares, 'tis true,

“But Love and War take Turns like Day and Night,

“And little Preparation serves my Turn,

“Equal to both, arm'd for either Fight.”

In short he replied in plain Prose to his Friend, the Parson, to consent to marry them that Evening, and gave his Honour to indemnify him from any Mischief that might attend him for marrying them out of canonical Hours—and Mr. Cl——'s affirming, that both of them promised him to be *remarried* some little Time after, publickly, at C-l-w—b Church.

This Application the good-natured Parson was unable to withstand, and accordingly he made the necessary Apparatus—and Capt. W——y was appointed to give the Lady away to his Uncle—and the before-mentioned Articles of Marriage were all carried into the Church, into which the Parties entered at separate Doors; and, after both the Deeds were signed and witnessed, by Mrs. Cl——'s and the Captain;—the Cere-

Ceremony was most profoundly performed, according to the Rites of the Church of *England*.

The Reader will find, in the following Affidavits, the Lady was distinguished for her audible Voice, and the distinct solemn Manner, with which she performed her Part of the Ceremony. One Circumstance must not be forgot—The Bridegroom had no Ring fit for the Purpose, which the Lady observing, she took her own Ring from her Finger, and gave it politely to Sir *W——m* to replace at the proper Juncture.

After the Ceremony, they returned in the same secret Manner: They left the Parsonage-house, where the Bride was saluted with her new Title of Lady *W——y*. After Supper, (when the young Part of Mr. *Cl——ts*'s Family were withdrawn)—the Lady began to renew her Fears of a Discovery, and again enjoined the Company to Secrecy; but her Suspicion was particularly levelled at poor Mr. *Cl——ts*,—and not content with his *Word solemnly* given, she was so *unmannerly* as to insist on his taking

taking his Oath on the Bible : But, at the same Time be it observed, as a *Proof* of the *Influence* this Lady had over him, and how much he was devoted to her Service! the good Lady's grateful Returns for it, the Reader will very soon be acquainted with.

At the Hour of Departure, the Bride took the Bridegroom and Capt. *W—y* in her Coach to the Bridge, where they were to part different Ways—and Sir *W—m*, it seems, observed it was very unaccustomary for a Bride and Bridegroom to separate on the Wedding-night—But since it was her Will, he must submit.

The next Day, the 24th—it was generally reported all over the Village of *C-l-w—b* and *W—y*, that Sir *W—m* and the Widow *Wb—y* were married the Evening before at *C-l-w—b* Church.—Two or three of the poor Neighbours, who saw the above Parties about the Church-yard, had the Confidence to peep into the Secret. On this general Report (propagated also by *R—d* *D—y*, and *M—y* *N—tt*, a very useful

ful Waiting-maid to the Lady) several Persons were sent for by the Bride directly to examine poor Cl——ts on the Truth of that Report, and to push him to a Declaration; because she knew she had FETTERED him to *Secrecy*— and that his *Denials* and *Evasions* to so many Witnesses, would all serve the P L A N concerted, if she should find it necessary to put it in Execution.

What a Machiaval in Petticoats! to be married in *private*— a few Persons present—to *swear* them to *Secrecy*— to *propagate* the Report—to send Persons of some Note to the Parties to inquire into the Truth of it— that they might make Oath, when called on, that Sir W——m and Mrs. Cl——ts both denied a Marriage on the 23^d of September! Why, this is a Master-stroke in Policy! and we shall soon find the great Use that was made of it.

Nothing material happened till the 27th, (the Interval being employed in mutual Visitings and Indearments) when the Lady told Sir W——m, she would beg of him to go some where on a Visit
from

from Home for a few Days; to remove the Suspicion of their Marriage; which he consented to: And, at taking his Leave that Night, the Lady burst into Tears; and, leaning her Head on his Neck, continued crying for some Time.

— At which Sir *W——m* (imagining her Concern arose from the Thoughts of his going from Home, as desired) told her, I have no Business from Home — To which the Lady replied, You must go—I'll make myself as easy as I can.

— The next Day Sir *W——m* set out, and was absent four Days— His Return was sooner than the Lady expected; for on his sending a Card to give her Notice of it, and of his Intention to wait on her, she dispatched trusty *Richard* to fetch Mr. *Cl——ts* instantly.

— When he came, she had the Modesty to desire him to wait on Sir *W——m* directly, to let him know she never intended to live with him.—

The Reader may easily imagine the Astonishment of the honest Parson at this strange Request.— He replied, You amaze me, Madam! I hope you have
done

done nothing to repent of—I would not deliver such a Message for the World! Send for him, and tell him so yourself.—In this Manner he left her—Soon after Sir *W——m* came, and meeting Mr. *N——tt*, her waiting-maid, he inquired after her Lady's Health.—To which she replied, Sir, my *Mistress is comical!* What do you mean (says Sir *W——m*) by saying so?—Really, Sir, (replied *N——tt* again) I don't well know—but my *Lady is very comical!* “She lay a-bed late To-day, having
 “ no Rest in the Night; when she got
 “ up, I dressed her, and she would lie on
 “ the Bed again, and there she is.”—Well, says Sir *W——m*, I will go up, and see if she is awake.—Up he went, and found her awake, but complaining of ill Health—and what was worse, she seemed to be in an ill Humour—However, she never mentioned to him what she had just before said to *Cl——ts*—but with some seeming Confusion said, she would never go to *W——y-hall* while Mrs. *W——r* (the
 House-

Housekeeper) was there, and one of the Chambermaids, she being informed he had too great an Intimacy with the latter. Sir *W——m* was alarmed at this unexpected, scandalous Accusation! and expostulated with some Warmth against such Stories, raised by invidious Persons, to create an Uneasiness between them.

His proper Behaviour on this Occasion seemed to soften the Lady's Resentment—who very soon began to smile, and discover an Inclination to a better Subject—And Sir *W——m* as soon began to consider *who he was!* and *where he was!*—Permit me, modest Reader, to draw the Curtain here, and let your own Imagination paint the Sequel.

This brings to my Mind an applicable Stanza, translated from an Ode of *Horace*, by a noble Lord, who, I presume was in the same happy Circumstances, and where *yielding* was necessary.

Bring

Bring with thee, Goddess, Graces three,
With all the Nymphs, both frank and free,
Of every Feature lavish,
Melting and yielding let her be;
Consider I am Sixty-three,
And that's no Age to ravish.

The Lady, after this pleasant Incident, (which is generally productive of Peace and good Humour) appeared to have altered her Mind; and the following Days were agreeably employed in laying out Schemes for her going to *W——y-hall*, as Mistress of the Mansion: And on the 12th Day of that Month, (*October*) Sir *W——m* went (as usual) to pay her his Morning-visit, and it was then agreed between them, that he should set out in a Day or two for *London*, to buy Cloaths and Liveries fit for the publick Declaration of their Marriage; and, during his Absence, she would take the Opportunity of reconciling the Affair (as she hoped) to her Brother and Aunts.

With this pleasing Resolution, he took his Leave of the Lady till his accustomed

customed Time of returning, the Evening.— Just as the Hour was near, Sir *W——m* received a Message from one Mr. *H—k—n*, an Attorney, that if he was alone, and disengaged, he would wait on him on Business.— The Message was brought him by a Servant from Mr. *D——n's*, the Inn-keeper at *W——y* Bridge, where this *H—k—n* waited. And the Answer returned was, that he was just setting out to walk by the Houses, and he would call on *H—k—n*.— Sir *W——m* soon followed the Messenger, and going into the Parlour where *H—k—n* was waiting, he told Sir *W——m* he was afraid he should prove an unwelcome Messenger, for his Business was, to inform him, that at Four o'Clock that Afternoon, he had carried the Lady, called the Widow *Wb——y*, but whose real Name was *R——ns*, to her Husband, *J——n R——ns*, Esq; of *St—f—d*.— And the Lady had desired him to wait on Sir *W——m* to inform him of it, to prevent his having any further Trouble about her.

I must beg my Reader again to observe this was *on the 12th Day of October!* and that Sir *W——m* had settled his intended Journey for Cloaths, with her, that Morning! That this same *H——k——n* is Agent for Mr. *R——ns*, Member of *P———t* for the Town of *St——f——d*, which is five short Miles from *W——y* Bridge.

After Sir *W——m* had expressed his Surprise at this Relation, *H——k——n* added, that they had been married some Time; and had lain together at her, the late Mrs. *Wh——y*'s House, and at *R——ns*'s House, at *St——f——d*, from whence he was sent that Afternoon to bring his Wife home. — *H——k——n* also added— The Lady has been very ill lately, but her Illness was all feigned; and that he had been told, and once really believed, that the said Mrs. *Wh——y* was Lady *W——y*.

When Sir *W——m* had collected himself, and was able to speak properly, he said he had not the least Intimation or Belief, that Mr. *R——ns* courted the Widow, much less that she was his Wife—

Wife—and insisted to know directly when, and where, and by whom, they were married—and desired to know if he could see the Lady. *H—k—n* told him, he was going back to them to *St—f—d*, and would return with Mr. *R—n's* Answer in the Morning.—The next Morning *H—k—n* came to *W—y-ball* from Mr. *R—ns*, to inform Sir *W—m*, that he was married to the late Widow *Wh—y* on the 16th of *June* last, at *C—tle Church*, near *St—f—d*, by the Rev. Mr. *C—e*.

Sir *W—m* receiving this full and distinct Account, sent to him by Mr. *R—ns*, told *H—k—n*, that it was now necessary to decline his Request to see the Lady; and only desired him to make his Compliments to Mr. *R—ns* and the Lady.

Sir *W—m's* first Step was a strict Inquiry after the Matter of Fact. Accordingly a proper Messenger was soon dispatched to the Rev. Mr. *C—e* at *C—tle Church*, to search the Register, and to have the Licence and Bond carefully

fully examined; from all which it appeared the above Parties were married on the 16th Day of *June*, 1752. And a Copy of the said Register was granted, and signed by the Rev. Mr. C—e!

The Sight of that Paper gave Sir W—m no small Consolation; because, by that prior Marriage, he had some Reason to think himself a free Man again! And yet there were some of Sir W—m's Friends of Condition in *St—f—d*, that were firmly of Opinion, that Mr. R—ns was not married to the Widow till the 12th of *October*, when she was brought to him by H—k—n. This Rumour prevailing, obliged Sir W—m to apply to his Friend the Bishop, to consult his Lordship what Steps were necessary to be taken to compell the Parties to prove their Marriage. The Bishop sent for the Rev. Mr. C—e, who declared, *he did marry J—n R—ns, Esq; to the Widow Wh—y, on the 16th of June last*; that the only Persons present were their two Servants; and that the Lady's Man R—d D—y gave her away. His Lordship was
pleased

pleased to order the Rev. Mr. C——e to return the Bond and Licence to the Court in *Litchfield*; and observed to him, that his *Safety* depended on his good Behaviour in that Affair. And thus this happy *prior* Marriage was seemingly confirmed, to the Joy of Sir W——m, at least, who had nothing now to do but to prosecute the Lady for a double Marriage; not so much out of a Spirit of Revenge, as to clear himself legally of so *dangerous a Woman*!

During the Residence of the happy Couple at St——d, the first Sunday they appeared at Church, it fortunately happened that the Second Lesson for the Day was the Fourth Chapter of St. *John*, and read by their own Reverend Mr. C——e! the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Verses were most joyously applicable, viz.

JESUS said unto her, Go, call thy Husband and come hither.

The Woman answered and said, I have no Husband.

D.

JESUS

JESUS said unto her, *Thou hast well said, I have no Husband; For thou hast had five Husbands, and he whom thou now hast IS NOT THY HUSBAND; in that saidst thou truly.*

And the Woman said unto him, Sir, I perceive thou art a Prophet.

The greatest Part of the Congregation (who were well acquainted with the Adventures of this enterprizing Lady) were in a full Stare and a high Titter, at the new-married Couple, and the Lady was very near fainting away at the Accident.

Mr. R——ns and his Lady made no long Stay at his House at *St---f---d*; and lived there in the utmost Privacy. They saw none but very particular Friends; and Mr. H---k---n, the Attorney, was their first Minister! After some Time thus spent in studying *Machiavel*, and forming Plans, they all set out for *London*, with as much Privacy as possible; from whence we shall soon hear of them in *Thunder*!

Sir

Sir *W—m*'s usual Time of going to the same Place was more than advanced ; but besides the unexpected Business the foregoing Incidents had involved him in, he was attacked with a slight Fit of the Gout, which was alone sufficient to confine him in the Country.--- Thus he remained too *inactive* for his Condition, and indulging in too much *Security*, till he was alarmed by the Arrival of a special Messenger from *London*, who brought him Letters of the following Account, *viz.* That on *Monday* last, the 5th Day of *February*, two learned Council moved a certain High Court of Justice for an Information to be granted against Sir *W---m W---y*, Baronet, *John Cl---ts*, Clerk, and *Ann* his Wife, and Lieutenant *R---d W---y*, for certain TRESPASSES ! CONTEMPTS ! CONSPIRACIES ! and MISDEMEANORS ! which are contained in the following Affidavits.

I will not detain my Reader from the following curious Entertainment, by adhering to the Terms of Law, but open the Charge with,

*The Affidavit of ANN Wife of J—N
R——NS, Esq; late Wife of JOHN
WH——Y, Esq;*

SETS FORTH,

THAT Sir *W——m W——y*, Bart.
John Cl——ts, Clerk, and *Ann* his Wife,
and one Mr. *R——d W——y*, a Relation
of the said Sir *W——m's*, called
Capt. *W——y*, did, as Deponent believes,
enter into a Conspiracy to force Depon-
ent against her Will and Consent, to
marry said Sir *W——m*, (Deponent being
then the Wife of said *J—n R—ns*)
although such Marriage was not pub-
lickly known: And did likewise after
conspire to charge Deponent with being
actually married to said Sir *W——m*;
which Conspiracy was begun, and car-
ried on as afore-mentioned, (*viz.*)

In the Months of *June, July* and *Aug-
ust* last, said Sir *W——m* came sever-
al Times to visit Deponent, in the
-same Manner as the rest of her Neigh-
bours did; and from the first of Sir
W——m's visiting Deponent, as afore-
said, said *Cl——ts* and Wife also visit-
ed

ed Deponent, and took all Opportunities of telling Deponent what a great Regard Sir *W——m* had for her—but Deponent at that Time took no Notice of what they said, not in the least believing it, there being a great Disparity in Years between her and Sir *W——m*.

That one Afternoon in *July* last, Sir *W——m* told Deponent he had something to say to her, on which his entire Happiness depended, and proceeded to tell Deponent he was come to offer himself to her—that his Love for her was so great, that he should be the most wretched Man upon Earth, if she refused him: That Interest was not his Motive; for he came to offer Deponent her Jointure independent of him, and what Addition to her present Income she thought proper after his Death, for that his Estate was unsettled. To which Deponent answered, She was obliged to him for the good Opinion he had of her, and for his generous Offers; but desired he would speak no more on that Subject, for that she should never entertain any Thoughts of him. And after a

great deal of Conversation of this Sort, he told Deponent he hoped she would alter her Mind. To which Deponent answered, She never should whilst she lived. Whereupon said Sir *W—m*, went away.

But a few Days after said Sir *W—m* came again, and repeated his Regard for Deponent ; and declared he could not live without her. Deponent again assured him, It was to no Purpose to renew the Subject---that she was very sorry she had occasioned him any Uneasiness, but must beg to be excused from ever talking to him more upon it, for it would be to no Manner of Purpose. To which he replied, If that was her Resolution, he would desist ; and that he would never mention this Subject more to he---but hoped this would not break any Friendship between them. To which Deponent answered, That, as a Friend, she should be glad to see him, the same as the rest of her Neighbours, but on no other Footing :

That

That although Sir *W*—*m* several Times visited Deponent, between the Time of said last Denial and the 26th of *August* then next following, yet he never mentioned any thing more in way of Courtship to Deponent :

That said *Cl*—*ts* and Wife were frequently in Company with Deponent after Sir *W*—*m* offered himself as aforesaid, and took frequent Opportunities of telling Deponent how dearly Sir *W*—*m* loved her---and a great deal more such-like Talk---of which Deponent did not think it worth her while to take any Notice, not at that Time suspecting any Confederacy between them---And the said Sir *W*---*m* continued to visit Deponent as a Neighbour until the 26th of *August* last in the Morning :

That on that Day Deponent was informed, that Sir *W*—*m* had sent for Deponent's Servant, *R*—*d* *D*—*y*, who was gone to Sir *W*—*m*, and when *D*—*y* came back, Deponent inquired of him what Sir *W*--*m* wanted with him; and Deponent observed, he

looked in great Confusion; and that the only Answer he made Deponent was, That Sir *W——m*'s Servants had represented to their Master that he (*R——d D——y*) had spoke disrespectfully of Deponent. At the same time protesting his Innocence, and told Deponent the Rev. Mr. *Cl——ts* could inform her more fully about the Affair, he being at Sir *W——m*'s that Day, and knowing all that passed. Whereupon Deponent went to said *Cl——ts*, the same Day, to know what had been said of her in Sir *W——m*'s Family—When said *Cl——ts* informed Deponent, it was a damn'd odd, infamous Affair; and that, as far as he could understand, it was some time when Sir *W——m*'s Servants and Deponent's Man had been together. They were talking of their Master and Mistress, and that Sir *W——m*'s Servants had told their Master, that Deponent's Man had spoken of him with great Disrespect, and very slightingly of Deponent; and added, It was insinuated in Sir *W——m*'s Family, as if Deponent and her Servant had been too familiar;
And

And that Deponent's said Servant had spoke or given Intimation thereof to Sir *W—m*'s Servants: For which Reason said Sir *W—m* had sent for them all, and made them swear, and examined them—And further added, Sir *W—m* did this in order to clear Deponent's Character; and thought it was wrong to make such a Bustle about the Nonsense of Servants, yet he was very certain Sir *W—m* loved Deponent dearly, and upon his Soul he had told him so often. To which Deponent answered, She did not know by what Authority Sir *W—m* took upon him either to asperse her Character, or to clear it: That she should think herself in a very bad Way, when she stood in need of his Assistance to vindicate her Character: That the Liberty he had taken with her, was so far from obliging her, that she should resent it extremely, And further answered, that Sir *W—m*'s pretending to clear her Character, (which she thanked God was never called in Question except by himself and Family) appeared to her as if he

D 5

wanted

wanted to raise some Reflections against her; and that as Deponent's said Servant had lived with her several Years, and had always behaved himself extremely well, she did not believe he would be guilty of any Reflections against her. To which said *Cl—ts* answered, that upon his Soul Sir *W—m* did not believe the least Ill of her; and tho' there was no Reason for the least Scandal, yet it would certainly make a Rumour in the Parish---and that he would advise Deponent to marry Sir *W—m*, and that would stop all Reflections that could possibly arise from this Nonsense: And added, that, upon his Soul, Sir *W—m* loved Deponent to that Distraction, that he could not live without her. Deponent then said, I hope you don't think so meanly of me, as to imagine I would marry Sir *W—m* the sooner, because either himself, or some of his Family, have falsely aspersed my Character--On the contrary, I would not have him, if the whole World depended upon it (Deponent being then married to said *J--n R—ns* as aforesaid, though her said Mar-

Marriage was then kept secret for particular Reasons)---And Deponent and said *Cl---ts* had a great deal more Conversation to the same Purpose :

That said *J--n Cl---ts* and his Wife greatly pressed Deponent to stay and dine with them that Day---And Mrs. *Cl---ts* told Deponent, that if she would stay and dine there, she would send for Deponent's Cloaths, that she might dress herself at said Mr. *Cl---ts*'s,—this Deponent being then in a Morning Dress.—This Deponent, not in the least suspecting the Design the said *J---n Cl---ts* and his Wife, and Sir *W---m* had against her, accepted of such Offer, and dined there--that soon after Dinner Deponent went up Stairs to dress herself, her Cloaths being come,---and whilst Deponent was dressing herself, Mrs. *Cl---ts* came into the Room, and told Deponent she was afraid she was cold, for there was scarce any Fire. Deponent answered, She was not over-warm. Upon which Mrs. *Cl---ts* left the Room, and came in again just as Deponent was dressed, and brought a Glass

of

of Liquor in her Hand, which Deponent apprehended at that time to be Wine—And told Deponent she had brought Deponent a Glas of Wine, for that she was afraid Deponent found the Room cold. Deponent thanked her, and said, as she had the Trouble to fetch it, she would drink it, or else had rather be excused. Whereupon Deponent drank the same; and after Deponent had drank it, the said Mrs. Cl——ts went down Stairs with Deponent into the Parlour, and after staying a few Minutes with Deponent, she went out of the Room, and soon came back again.

That in about fifteen Minutes after drinking said Liquor, and whilst she was in the Parlour, she (Deponent) was taken suddenly very ill, and sick; and with a great Trembling all over her—And Deponent then told said Mrs. Cl——ts she wished she had not drank said Glas of Wine, for it had made her very ill, and that she was almost ready to die: To which Mrs. Cl——ts made no Answer, as Deponent remembers, but went out of the Parlour into the Hall, and bought Cloth of a Scotsman—And Deponent

ponent in the mean time continuing very ill, got up to the Window and vomited to a violent Degree, and then went and sat down again :

That Deponent then saw Sir *W—m* come into the Room, and immediately afterwards she became totally insensible, and remembers nothing more, and knows not what happened afterwards, nor how long she remained insensible:— That when she came to herself, she saw Sir *W—m*, Mr. *Cl—ts* and his Wife, standing by her, and the said Mr. *Cl—ts* had a Book in his Hand ; and Deponent desired Mrs. *Cl—ts* to take her to the Window that she might have some Air, for she was exceeding sick, and again vomited most violently, and then was something easier, and went and sat down again :

That Mr. *Cl—ts* then asked Deponent how she could fall into such a Fit, when it was her own Desire, as well as Sir *W—m*'s, to be married—At which Deponent being greatly alarmed and astonished, asked Mr. *Cl—ts* what he meant : To which he answered, What should I mean, but that you was
mar-

married to Sir *W—m* this Afternoon, just before you was taken so ill?—To which Deponent replied, I believe you are mad, or you could not talk so—And Sir *W—m* then said, he wondered Deponent could forget that she was married. Upon which Deponent then said, You surely think I am still deprived of my Senses, or else you could never talk so to me—And added, (as the Truth is) I never was married to Sir *W—m*, nor ever will:—

That said *Cl—ts* and Sir *W—m*, after talking a great deal more to same Purpose, went out of the Room, and came in again in a few Minutes; upon which Deponent said to them, If you talk to me after this Manner, I will call in all the People of the House to know what you did to me whilst I was out of my Senses—for I am sure I never was married to Sir *W—m* in my Senses. —Mr. *Cl—ts* then said, that making such a Noise did not signify, for Sir *W—m* was determined to take Deponent to his House that Night, unless she would sign a Paper he had in his Hand, and which he said consisted only of Deponent's

ponent's promising never to relate what had passed that Night; and then Sir *W——m* swore by all that was sacred, if Deponent did not sign the Paper, he would immediately take Deponent to his own House: That what with the Fright they had put her in, and the Illness which the Liquor occasioned, and seeing no other Way to escape from them, she was obliged, and did sign said Paper, without reading, or hearing the same read over, or knowing the Contents thereof. Then Sir *W——m* said to Mr. *Cl——ts*, We'll talk no more on this Subject to-night.

That Mr. *Cl——ts* went and call'd for Cards, and one Mr. *A——s*, and said *Cl——ts*'s Children came into the Room. —Mrs. *Cl——ts* came and asked Deponent if she would play at Cards; Deponent answered, she was not able, and desired to be excused—Mrs. *Cl——ts* then whispered Deponent, and said, she had much better stay at her House all Night As Deponent was so ill, it was not proper for her to go home—Upon which Deponent got up directly from her Seat
and

64 *The Widow of the Wood.*

and went into the Hall, where said Mrs. Cl——ts and said Sir W——m followed her; and Deponent then told Mrs. Cl——ts, that if the World depended upon it, she would not stay all Night at her House—Whereupon Sir W——m told Deponent he had ordered his Chariot, and she should go home therein—But Deponent told him, she would not go home in it; and said, as she had stayed so late, her own Coach would come for her:

That Deponent went into the Parlour again, and what with her being so ill, and their telling her, and standing to it, that she was married to Sir W——m, she was almost distracted:

That Deponent, after Supper, finding herself extremely ill again, ordered her Coach; and as soon as she was told it was come, Deponent got into it, and Sir W——m taking Advantage of Deponent's Illness, occasioned by said Glass of Liquor, followed Deponent into her Coach without her Consent, and told Deponent, he would see her safe home—That she was very sick all the Way home,

home, and ready to faint, and that Sir *W—m* did not stay three Minutes in Deponent's House after Deponent got home—that Deponent went directly into her Room, and desired her Servant *M---y N---tt* to undress her and put her to Bed as fast as she could :

That after Deponent was in Bed, she fell asleep immediately, and remembers no more that passed for some Time ; but when she came to herself, which she was informed by her said Servant *M---y N---tt* was in about three Hours, she again vomited extremely ; and, during the Night, fainted away two or three Times, and was obliged to have her Servant sit up with her, and continued sick, after eating no thing, for two or three Days :

That the next Morning, Sir *W—m* came to Deponent's House before she was up, and when Deponent's Servant came into Deponent's Room, to tell her he was come, Deponent said, Good God, *Mary!* I never can bear the Sight of that base Wretch more !---Deponent's Servant said, Lord, Madam ! what is the
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Matter? Deponent answered, *Mary!* when I am able, I will tell you all:

That Deponent was very unwilling to see Sir *W—m* more--but recollecting the Paper-writing Deponent had been compelled to sign as aforesaid, and being desirous to know the Contents thereof, and to have it delivered to her—she, at last determined to see Sir *W—m*, in hopes of getting said Paper, and to hear what he had to say in Excuse for his Behaviour to her the Night before--That she was above half an Hour before she could bring herself to get out of Bed—but, at last, she got up, and went to Sir *W—m*; and when she came into the Room, Sir *W—m* asked her how she did; Deponent answered, the Liquor Mrs. *Cl—ts* was so civil to give her, had almost been the Death of her; for she had been in such a Condition the whole Night she thought she should have died, and was so ill then, she did not know what to do with herself; and added till she drank that cursed Glass of Liquor, she was very well, and after she had drank it, was taken so ill.----Sir
W—m

W——*m* told Deponent, that he hoped, in the Midst of her Illness, she remembered she was married to him last Night! Deponent answered, Is it possible, Sir *W*——*m*, you can assert so infamous a Falsity? He answered, You will find it a Truth ; and surely the Fit which she fell into afterwards could not make her forget all that happened! Which Speech of Sir *W*——*m*'s put Deponent into a violent Passion, and Deponent said to him, Sir, I now begin to see through all your Plots, and suppose you and your base Friend *Cl*——*ts* gave me a Dose that you might afterwards face me out of my Reason.---But I, in my Senses, was never married to you in my Life, and, what is still more, never will---and directly added, I well remember, when I came to my Senses last Night at *Cl*——*ts*'s, he stood with a Book in his Hand----What Book it was, or what Use he made of it, none but yourselves know.---Sir *W*——*m* then said, Madam, you need not put yourself in such a Hurry, for married you was to me, and Mr. and Mrs. *Cl*——*ts* will both be Witnesses ;

nesses; and if any Advantage was taken, it proceeded from the Love I had for you--*and without you, live I could not!* I claim you as my Wife, and will do all in my Power to make you happy, if you will consent to go with me publicly to Church and be married; and if you will not, I shall give you a few Days to consider of it, and shall then bring my Coach and fetch you to my House. Deponent said to him, all your Threats shall never make me marry you; and added, I believe there never was so base a Plot upon the Face of the Earth—That after some Discourse of same sort, Sir *W——m* went away, and Deponent went up Stairs almost distracted—That soon after, on the same Day, Mr. *Cl——ts* and Wife came to Deponent's House, and said Mr. *Cl——ts* asked Deponent if she had seen Sir *W——m*. Deponent answered, Yes; and said, Mr. *Cl——ts*, can you be so ungrateful to me, as to join with Sir *W——m* in so vile an Aspersion, as saying, you married me to him? Mr. *Cl——ts* answered, upon his Soul he did, and that he would take his

his Oath of it. Deponent replied, can you be so base as to say this to my Face? —And likewise said, I remember last Night when I was at your House, when I came to my Senses, I saw you standing by me with a Book in your Hand— Did you, whilst I lay in a Fit, read the Service over? His Answer was, he had married Deponent---that it did not signify what Deponent said about it---and that if Deponent would go publickly to Church, and be married to Sir *W—m*, he was sure Sir *W——m* would do every Thing in his Power to make Deponent happy—and that, if Deponent would not consent, he assured Deponent Sir *W—m* would come, in a few Days, and take Deponent to his House; for they should take care to bring Witnesses enough to swear Deponent and Sir *W——m* were married. And as to himself, he would swear any thing to oblige Sir *W——m*; and added, that he had married Deponent with a Licence, and therefore was afraid of no body--- and that Sir *W—m* and he had Friends enough that would witness for them—
and

and knew if Deponent was not happy with Sir *W—m*, it was her own Fault; for upon his Soul Sir *W—m* loved Deponent to Distraction—and he wondered Deponent would have any Objection to a Person of Sir *W—m*'s great Fashion, and was surpris'd Deponent should not be pleas'd with being the Top of the Parish.--Deponent replied, I am sure, so base a Scheme was never acted before, but that all their Lies and Swearing should not make her marry Sir *W—m*. Mrs. *Cl—ts* then said, she was ready to swear her Husband had married Deponent to Sir *W—m*; Deponent told her, that after acting the Part she had done, in giving the Liquor that so much disordered her, Deponent did not in the least doubt but she would swear, say, or do any Thing--But that Deponent *hoped God Almighty would punish such Crimes*; and added, she would be torn in a thousand Pieces before she would marry Sir *W—m*, or that they should succeed in their Attempts:

That Sir *W—m* and Mr. *Cl—ts* came most Days after said 26th of *August*,

gust, still persisting Deponent was married to Sir *W—m*; which Deponent was uneasy about, and imprudently concealed from her Husband, and Friends, hoping a Person of Rank, and a Clergyman, might, upon more serious Consideration, when they found Deponent resolute and inflexible, give up and abandon so impious and false a Pretence; and Deponent behaved with Civility towards said Conspirators some Time after said 26th of *August*, hoping by fair Means to get from them said Paper-writing, which she had been compelled to sign as aforesaid:

That said *Cl—ts* and Wife, and Sir *W—m*, finding they were not able to succeed in their Attempts upon Deponent by the Methods before stated, they, as Deponent believes, from what afterwards followed, thought of a new Scheme to compleat their wicked Designs upon Deponent, which is as follows, (*to wit*)

Sir *W—m*, a few Days before the 23d of *September* last, came to Deponent's House, and told Deponent he
found

found all his Schemes and Professions of Love, made to Deponent, could not get the better of her Dislike to him, for which he knew no Reason, though he vowed he loved Deponent to Distraction, yet as he found Deponent's Aversion to him was so great, he was come to assure Deponent, that he should never think of her more, otherwise than he hoped, so long as he staid in the Country, he and Deponent should live in Friendship, and carry to each other with Civility when they happened to meet--- That he was determined to stay no longer in the Country than to settle his Affairs, and when that was done, he was determined to see *W----* no more, for as he could not have this Deponent, he could not bear to see Deponent (which, if he staid, he should be obliged to do) about the Neighbourhood; and added, he gave Deponent his Word and Honour, Deponent should never have a Moment's more Uneasiness upon his Account, as long as he lived---and that he was truly sorry for what was passed -and hoped, that though Deponent had so bad an
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Opinion of him, that Deponent would impute what was pass'd to his great Love for Deponent. Deponent answered, I am very glad you have some Remorse of Conscience for the ungenerous Behaviour you and that base Rascal *Cl---ts* have been guilty of towards me; and as you declare you will leave the Country as soon as your Affairs are settled, and are pleas'd to say you are actually sorry for what is pass'd, I shall, if I possibly can, endeavour, Sir, to forget my Injury, so far as not to shew any Resentment when we meet in Company.

---But I must insist on seeing the Paper you and *Cl---ts* obliged me to sign that Night at his House. To which Sir *W---m* answered, that Mr. *Cl-----ts* both would and should shew it Deponent whenever Deponent thought proper to see it ----That Sir *W---m* soon after took his Leave of Deponent and went away.

That Mr. *Cl---ts* came to Deponent's House the next Day, when Deponent related to him what had pass'd between Sir *W---m* and Deponent; Mr. *Cl---ts*

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told

told Deponent, that Sir *W——m* had told him every thing himself — Deponent then said, Mr. *Cl——ts*, I insist upon seeing that Paper you made me sign that Night at your House. He replied — Upon his Soul that Deponent should, the very first Time that Deponent would call at his House, and, not only see it, but keep it if she pleased :

That Deponent being very uneasy to see said Paper, and to have the same delivered to her, she accordingly, on *the 23d Day of September, between One and Two o'Clock in the Afternoon*, went to said Mr. *Cl——ts's*, and desired him to let Deponent see said Paper as he promised — He answered — Upon his Soul Deponent should — and went out of the Room — as he then said, to fetch it; but before he came into the Room, his Dinner was placed upon the Table — and he then came and whispered to Deponent, (for one Mr. *A——s* and Mr. *Cl——ts's* Children came into the Room) that Deponent should see the Paper as soon as he had dined — And Mrs. *Cl——ts* told Deponent she expected Miss *S——yds* (who

(who live in the Neighbourhood) to drink Tea with her—or else she should have gone to Mr. C———e's (another Neighbour) to play at Cards, for she had been asked to come thither — and that Sir W———m W———y, and more Company, were to dine there that Day; which was told Deponent, as Deponent verily believes, with an Intent to induce Deponent to stay, said Miss S——yds being her Acquaintance — That she Deponent, took the first Opportunity after Dinner again to desire Mr. Cl——ts to fetch Deponent the Paper — and he again promised he would, and went out of the Room, and Deponent sat for some Time waiting for the same — But Mr. Cl——ts not coming back again — Deponent went and took a Walk with said Mrs. Cl——ts in the Garden, till it was almost dark; and when they came out of the Garden, they went into the Parlour, where Deponent found said Sir W——m, and the said Person called Capt. W——y and Mr. Cl——ts; at which Deponent was greatly surprised,

and verily believes, that Mr. Cl—ts instead of going to fetch said Paper, as he promised, went to fetch Sir W—m and Mr. W—y --- And after Deponent had been in the Room a few Minutes, Mr. Cl—ts came and whispered Deponent, and said, he had got the Paper in his Pocket, and Deponent should see it as soon as Sir W—m and his Nephew were gone — That she made him no Answer, being too much vexed at his Deceit — but immediately asked Mrs. Cl—ts if she did not think Miss S—yds made it late before they came. Her Answer was, they had just sent her Word they could not come---whereupon they drank Tea and played at Cards :

That from the Time Deponent went to said Mr. Cl—ts's that Day (except walking in the Garden) she was not out of the House, till she went to get into her Coach to go home---That Sir W—m asked Deponent to carry him and said Mr. W—y as far as W—y Bridge, which is in her Way home---And Deponent having had such Assurances from Sir W—m as aforesaid, and therefore not

not caring to refuse such a Civility, consented to it, and carried them accordingly in her Coach; and when they came to the Bridge, said Sir *W---m* and his Nephew got out of the Coach:

That Deponent, just before she went from Mr. *Cl---ts*'s that Night, was told by Mr. *Cl---ts*, that he would bring the Paper himself to Deponent's House:

That on the next Morning, being the 24th of *September*, Deponent's said Servant *M---y N---tt*, came into Deponent's Room about Eight o'Clock, and said, she had News to tell Deponent, but hoped Deponent would not be angry; and added, 'twas ridiculous to tell Deponent such Nonsense, *knowing how long Deponent had been married to her Master Mr. R---ns.* Deponent's Answer to her was, Let it be what it will, I shall not be angry---She thereupon told this Deponent, that this Deponent's Man, *R---d D---y*, had told her over Night, that Deponent was seen the last Night, which was the 23d of *September* last, in *C-l-w---b* Church with Sir *W---m* at the Communion Table, and that two

Candles stood upon the Table, and that Sir *W—m* and Deponent were then married—Deponent asked her how she could be such a Fool to tell Deponent such Nonsense only to vex Deponent—To which said Servant replied, she should not have dared to tell Deponent such a false Report, but that Deponent's Man told her they designed ringing the Bells, which she well knew would greatly shock this Deponent, and make Deponent's Husband, Mr. *R—ns*, very uneasy—Deponent then order'd said *M—y N—t* to go to *R—d D—y*, and bid him fetch Mr. *Cl—ts* immediately, which said *D—y* did, and Mr. *Cl—ts* came directly.

That as soon as Deponent heard Mr. *Cl—ts* was come, she went down to him,—and *D—y* followed her into the Room where Mr. *Cl—ts* was,—Deponent said to Mr. *Cl—ts*, My Man here has heard a Report, which, when he has related it to you, I desire you'll declare whether it is true or false—and then ordered her Man to tell all that he had heard concerning Sir *W—m's* and
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Deponent's being married the Night before, which said D—y did—And after Mr. Cl—ts had heard him relate all the Report, the said Mr. Cl—ts declared, upon his Soul and Body, and called Heaven to witness, it was as damned a Lie as ever was told—That he never married Deponent to said Sir W—m; and further said, he never knew such a Parish in his Life for raising damned Lies. Deponent then said to Mr Cl—ts, Are you sure you did not marry any Body last Night; for if you did—as Sir W—m and I happened to be at your House, it might occasion the Report; and if you did, I insist upon your owning it to me, for that will explain from whence this Lie proceeded—He answered, upon his Soul, and as God was his Judge, and wished he might be damned, if he had married any Soul that Night; and further said, as he hoped for Mercy, he had not set his Foot in the Church upon any Account that Day or Night, or used Words to the very same Effect. That Mr. Cl—ts, Deponent, and Man, went out of the Room together;

and *Cl——ts* went away directly. Deponent went up Stairs, and afterwards went to *G-l-w-b* Church-- And as soon as Deponent came out of the Church, Sir *W——m* met Deponent in the Church-yard, and told Deponent she seemed to be in a great Hurry---To which Deponent answered, Sir, if you have not heard the Report which was spread the last Night, I believe you are the only one in the Parish that has not--He said, he had heard no Report; upon which Deponent replied,, If you please to call at my House, I shall inform you; for I am resolved to know the Authors of the Report.--Deponent ordered her Man to tell the Ringers, that, if they offered to ring the Bells, she should resent it very much.

That Sir *W——m* called on Deponent soon after she got home, and Deponent related to him all she had heard about him and Deponent's being married the 23^d of September--He answered, he was surpris'd People could invent such Lies out of nothing; and added, he was very sorry it should give Deponent

ment such Uneasiness---but he could not help the idle Reports of other People --But that if he could find out who had raised the Report, he would punish them, if possible. Deponent answered, it might appear to him no more than an idle Report, but it too nearly concerned Deponent ever to be easy till it was cleared up; and therefore hoped he would fulfil his Promise and make Inquiries whence this Lie proceeded. Sir *W---m* went away and came in the Afternoon, and brought Mr. *Cl---ts* with him in his Chariot: And Mrs. *Cl---ts* and Mr. *W---y* came soon after them, and Deponent had a great deal more Company with her that Afternoon--And as soon as they were gone, Sir *W---m* told Deponent, that he had made strict Inquiry after the Authors that raised the Report that he and Deponent had been married on the 23^d of September; and that he was told, it was fixed on one *C---n*, that lives over against the Church--That he had been with said *C---n*, and she declared she knew nothing of the Matter more than that

one *D—r*, a Taylor, had told her, that he saw Sir *W—m* married to Deponent on the 23d—That he had sent for *D—r*, but he was from Home, so ordered he should come to *W—y-ball* the next Morning, and would then examine him :

That the next Morning being *Munday* the 25th of *September*, the said Mr. *Cl—ts* came to Deponent's House as soon as Deponent was up, and pretended to be in a great Fright, and told Deponent every one believed he had married Deponent to Sir *W—m* on the 23d of *September*, and that *D—r* was such a Villain to tell him to his Face he would swear it-- and that if the Bishop should hear it, he would strip his Gown over his Ears-- and therefore begged Deponent would consent to go the next Morning to Church, and be married to Sir *W—m*. Deponent answered, Can you imagine any of your Lies can have the least Effect upon me-- Or, can you think a Man telling you he would swear he saw you marry me to Sir *W—m*, when we all know it to be false, will make me mar-

ry Sir *W—m* — Or do you take me to be such a Fool to think you are afraid of the Bishop stripping your Gown over your Ears for a Thing you never did— and added, You now convince me you are only trying to impose upon me, and I begin to think you are the Author of the vile Report yourself—and continued, If the Bishop knew the Usage I have had from you, you would with some Reason fear having your Gown stripped over your Ears :

That whilst she and Mr. *Cl—ts* were talking, Sir *W—m* came into Deponent's House, and told Deponent he called to let Deponent know he had sent again to said *D—r*, and expected him every Minute, and immediately after Sir *W—m* and Mr. *Cl—ts* went away from Deponent's House together, and in the Evening of the same Day, Sir *W—m* called upon Deponent again, and said, he had seen *D—r*; and after he had given him his Oath, desired him to tell whether he saw him and Deponent married in the Church the 23d of September--And Sir *W—m* told
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Deponent, that *D—r* then declared he never saw him and Deponent married in the Church the 23d of *September*, nor saw, nor knew any thing of the Matter, any further, than that he, said *D—r*, went, on the 23d of *September*, at Night, to Mr. *Cl—ts*'s to carry some Potatoes they had ordered to be brought for Sir *W—m*'s Supper, and that Mr. *Cl—ts*'s Man said to him in a Joke, he should have brought some for my Lady as well as Sir *W—m*, and that *D—r* told him he did not know what he meant by *my Lady* --- and that Mr. *Cl—ts*'s Man then told him, that Sir *W—m* was married to Deponent--- That Mr. *Cl—ts*'s said Servant was afterwards asked, if he had said any such Thing to *D—r*, ---and he declared *he never did*:

That the next Day, being *Tuesday* the 26th of *September*, to the best of Deponent's Remembrance, Mr. *Cl—ts* came to Deponent's House, and told her again, that every Body believed she was married to Sir *W—m* the 23d of *September*. --- Deponent then said to Mr. *Cl—ts*

Cl——ts, Are you sure you did not marry any Body in that Church that Night, which has occasioned this false Report; Mr. *Cl——ts* then declared upon his Soul he did not---but added, he must own, when Sir *W——m* and his Nephew came into his House, he just stepped into the Church, with them, to look at Sir *W——m*'s Family-Monument---Deponent then said to Mr. *Cl——ts*, You have now explained what I before suspected, that it was some Scheme contrived amongst yourselves which has occasioned this Report; and asked him if he remembred how many Times he had called God to witness, before Deponent's Servant *D——y*, as well as Deponent, that he had never set his Foot in the Church on the 23d of *September*, either that Day or Night, on any Account whatever.

The said Mr. *Cl——ts* then told Deponent, that Sir *W——m* loved Deponent so much, that he was determined to have her at all Events, and that he would advise Deponent, as a Friend, to consent to go publickly to Church and
marry

marry Sir *W-----m*; for if she, Deponent, did not—they were resolved to swear that Deponent was married to Sir *W-----m* on the 23^d of September; and he assured Deponent there were People ready to witness for Sir *W-----m* that she little expected—And as for himself, he knew how dearly Sir *W-----m* loved this Deponent --- that Sir *W-----m* had indemnified him—and that, by God, he would swear any thing to serve Sir *W-----m* --- That Deponent was so shocked with what Mr. *Cl-----ts* then said, that she went directly out of the Room, and called her Maid-servant, *N---tt*, and ordered her to stand at the Door to hear what Mr. *Cl-----ts* might further say to Deponent. — Deponent left *M---y N---tt* at the Door, and went into the Room again to Mr. *Cl-----ts*, and said to him, Is it possible you can put in Practice what you have threatened me, of swearing you had married me to Sir *W-----m* the 23^d of September, if I could not be persuaded to go publickly to Church and marry him? and don't you think I shall tell all the base

Usage

Usage I have met with from you? He answered---No one would believe what Deponent said; for he was certain she had none but herself to disprove it--- And as for himself, he would swear any thing to serve Sir *W---m*, and so would many others besides himself, whom Deponent little expected, and which Deponent should find to her Cost---and added, Deponent had better be advised before it was too late. Deponent told him she scorned such base Advice---and that if he and his Gang swore till they died, Deponent would never marry Sir *W-----m*.

That Deponent sent to Sir *W-----m*, and desired he would call on her the first Opportunity --- and when Sir *W-----m* came, Deponent related to him all the above Conversation that passed between Deponent and Mr. *Cl---ts*; --- and added---after the Concern he had formerly expressed for his ill Usage of her before, and the Pains he pretended to take to have the false Report cleared up, Deponent hoped he could not be guilty of so much Baseness, as to indemnify
hesel said

said Mr. *Cl---ts* to swear he had married her to him on the 23^d of September. Sir *W---m* answered, his Love for her was so great, that without her he could not live--and added, let the Consequence be what it would, he was resolved to have her--And if Deponent would not go publickly to Church, and marry him, he was determined to swear Deponent was married to him on the 23^d of September, and that other People, besides Mr. *Cl---ts*, would both be Witnesses, and swear for him; and that it was in vain for Deponent to say any thing against it:

That such Menaces and Threats being repeated for several Days afterwards, both by Mr. *Cl---ts* and Sir *W---m*, Deponent grew at last convinced they were resolved to continue all Attempts to compleat their wicked Contrivance of forcing Deponent to celebrate a Marriage publickly, or to confess the Solemnization of a Marriage which had never been had; and therefore Deponent, to avoid their Company, confined herself to her Chamber, and was so much affected

fectcd by their Conduct, as to become extremely ill---And Mr. R---ns, her Husband, being at that Time abroad, on a Journey, Deponent had no Opportunity (if she had had any Strength and Courage to have done it) to communicate to him the Injuries she had received as aforesaid.

That Mr. R---ns returning to his own House in a few Days afterwards, and hearing of a Rumour of such pretended Marriage, sent to Deponent to know the Meaning thereof. Deponent sent him Word she would come to him the first Opportunity she had, and acquaint him with the whole Affair---And Deponent sent said M--y N---tt in a Day or two after to Mr. R---ns, to tell him the terrible Situation Deponent was in :

That Sir W---m, notwithstanding she kept her Chamber for the Purposes aforesaid, still continued to come to Deponent's House---and finding Deponent's Spirits much disordered, in a threatening Way several Times declared, that if Deponent did not get well soon,

soon, and go to Church and be married to him, he would bring his Coach and take her away by Force--for that he had Friends who would swear she was married to him.

That Mr. *Cl---ts* likewise coming, Deponent ordered her Man, *D---y*, and Maid, *M---y N---tt*, or one of them, to be always at the Door, that they might hear the Threats she always had--and though she had other Servants during the Interval, yet she had none she could so much depend upon as said *D---y* and *M---y N---tt*;--Therefore did not communicate the ill Treatment she received to any other of her Servants, nor was Deponent's Marriage with Mr. *R---ns* known to any of her Servants except said *D---y* and *N---tt*, as Deponent verily believes:

That Mr. *Cl---ts* came one Day, when Deponent was very ill, and in Bed, into this Deponent's Room, (he knowing what Room she lay in, being conversant in the House) without Deponent's Privity or Consent, and asked Deponent how she did--Deponent answered

swered she was very bad, and did not desire his Company. He said, she was not ill, and must and should get up and go with him to *C-l-w-b* Church, and be married to Sir *W---**m*, and then all would be well. Deponent then told him to get out of the Room, for he was a vile Scoundrel. Upon which he took Deponent by the Arms, and endeavoured to drag her out of Bed. Deponent then screamed out, and said *M-y N--tt* directly burst into the Room, and said, Lord, Madam, what is the Matter with you? What has Mr. *Cl--ts* been doing to you? Deponent said, Lord, *M-y*, help me!—and remembers no more for some Time. But when she came to herself, the first Thing she remembers was, seeing *M-y N--tt* standing by her—who then told Deponent, she had fainted away; but that as soon as Deponent fainted away, Mr. *Cl--ts* went out of the Room, without saying one Word more: That in a Day or two after, Sir *W---**m* coming again, before he came up to Deponent's Room, Deponent ordered

dered her Maid-servant, *M--y*, to stand at the Door; Sir *W---m* then told Deponent he was determin'd the next Morning to bring his Coach and take her away by Force, if she would not promise to get well, and go to Church and marry him, for that he had People enough that would swear for him that he had married her the 23d of *September*. Deponent told him, she had borne everything with Patience, hoping he would relent, and give up his wicked Scheme; but as she found nothing would soften him, he might do his worst, for she hated him, and, was the World to depend upon it, she would never have him:

That another Day Sir *W---m* and Mr. *Cl---ts* came, Deponent was very ill, and her Maid, *M--y N--tt*, was standing by her when they came into the Room, and immediately told them how bad Deponent was, and that she was determin'd to send for Deponent's Brother, *W---m N---y*, Esq; for she could not longer bear to see Deponent lie in so miserable a Condition, and have no Friend with her—and added, If Mr.
N---y

N——y knew Deponent was the least ill—she was sure he would be with Deponent immediately—and she was convinced it would be a great Satisfaction to Deponent to see him. Deponent's Maid then left the Room; and Mr. Cl——ts told Deponent her Maid's Impertinence was very great in threatening to send for Mr. N——y; and said, he assured Deponent they should take care to set Mr. N——y and all her Friends against her; and that what Deponent said, would never be believed, when he had so many People would swear for Sir W——m; and swore, upon his Soul, they would take care to make Deponent ashamed to shew her Face amongst any of her Friends—or used Words to that very Effect. — Deponent answered, “ Mr. Cl——ts, as long as I know my own Innocence, I shall never fear such Villains as you :”

That Mrs. Cl——ts came another Day, and said, She was surpris'd Deponent could not like Sir W——m, and fancied the Reason was, Deponent had so great a Regard for Mr. R——ns. — If that was the Case, Deponent might
marry

marry Sir *W——m* first, and he was so old he could not live long, and Deponent might afterwards marry Mr. *R-----ns* — and that all the World said, whether Deponent was married to Mr. *R-----ns*, or not, he would leave her Children his Estate.----Deponent then told her, This last Advice of her's was like all the rest of their base low Plots. ---But Deponent desired Mr. *R-----ns's* *Name might not be called in Question with such a Set of Villains as themselves----*and added, It was nothing to her who Deponent liked or disliked, for that Deponent mortally hated Sir *W——m* and *all his Gang*.

That Sir *W——m* and Mr. *Cl——ts* came another Time to see Deponent, and she then asked them both to let her see the Paper they made her sign the 26th of *August*. Mr. *Cl——ts* answered, that since she was so damned obstinate, they should, he assured her, make what Use they thought proper of it. Deponent then told him, She despised all their Villainy, and did not doubt but in
a short

a short Time she should be able to overcome all their Wickedness :

That a few Days before she went home to Mr. R——ns, her Husband, which was in the Beginning of *October* last, said Mr. Cl——ts came to her, and said, He was surpris'd that Deponent would not go publickly to Church, and marry Sir W——m; Deponent told him, She never would marry Sir W——m as long as she lived.—He then told Deponent, She must take what followed; for, *by God*, Sir W——m had indemnified him, and, by his Soul and Body, he would swear any Thing to serve Sir W——m; and asked how she could help herself — and told Deponent, She had better make it her own Act, marrying Sir W——m, than run the Risque of being expos'd to her Friends, and all the World. And Deponent then told him, Let the Consequence be what it would, she never would marry Sir W——m :

That she hath been informed, and believes, that said Sir W——m hath given out, that Deponent hath signed a Marriage Contract or Agreement with Sir W——m ;

W---m, but saith, If there is any such Contract or Agreement--the same is said Paper-writing, which Deponent was forced to sign by such Means as aforesaid, immediately after Deponent came out of said Fit, occasioned by drinking said Glass of Liquor, as aforesaid, which Deponent believes was *Laudanum*, or some Preparation of *Opium*:

Hath been informed, and believes, that said Mr. *Cl-----ts* hath made, or caused to be made, an Entry in the Register-Book of the Parish of *C-l-w---h*, that Deponent was married to Sir *W---m* on the 23d of September last; and that such Entry was not made until November last, although it purports to testify a Marriage on the 23d of September preceding.

And Deponent positively saith, That she never did marry Sir *W---m W---y*, nor take him to Husband, nor was the Ceremony of Marriage, or any Part thereof, solemnized or celebrated between him and Deponent, nor did Deponent ever contract or agree to marry him.

But what said Mr. Cl———ts, Sir W——m, or any other Person in Conspiracy with them, might do under the false Pretence of Marriage, whilst Deponent was rendered insensible by drinking said Glass of Liquor as aforesaid; Deponent knoweth not, nor can set forth:

Hath been informed, and believes, That said R——d W——y, commonly called Captain W——y, hath several Times since the 23d of *September* last, declared, and given out, that he saw Deponent married to said Sir W——m on said 23d of *September*, and that he himself gave her away.

The Reader, I am of Opinion, is very glad to see the End of this famous *Affidavit* of A---N THE WIFE OF J---N R——NS, ESQ;—Copies of which, I am well informed, were industriously sent to most of the Counties in *England*! The next read in Court was the long *Affidavit* of M—Y N—T, the Lady's Chamber-maid; which I will not tire my Reader by inserting, since it only

corroborates and confirms every Article where she is mentioned in the foregoing tedious, tautological Affidavit.

The Third produced, was the copious Affidavit of R—-D D—-y, the Lady's chief Man-servant; which corresponds, in every Circumstance, with the former Two; which the Reader, I doubt not, will give Credit for—but the Fourth, read in Court, must not be omitted.

Affidavit of J—N R—-ns, Esq;

THAT in the Month of JUNE LAST, HE, DEPONENT, WAS MARRIED TO A—WH—-y,—WIDOW, late Wife of J—n Wb—y, Esq; deceased.—Which Marriage Deponent agreed, *at his Wife's Request, to keep secret* for the Space of twelve Months then next following—That the same was accordingly kept secret for some Time, and Deponent permitted his Wife to reside at her own House at *Wb—y Wood*, in the County of *St—-f—-d*, and to go by

by her Widow-Name, in the same manner as she did before her Marriage with Deponent :

That in the latter End of *September* last, Deponent had Occasion to take a Journey into *Derbyshire*, where Deponent stay'd for ten Days, or thereabouts; and Deponent returned to his House at *St-f--d* the Beginning of *October* last : That upon his Return, he found, to his great Surprize, that a general Report was spread about the Neighbourhood, that Deponent's Wife (who was then called Mrs. *Wh--y*, Deponent's Marriage with her not being publicly known) was married to Sir *W---m W---y* : That Deponent, being much surpris'd at such Report, sent over to his Wife to know the Reason thereof-- That his Wife did then, by *M--y N--t* her Servant, and immediately afterwards in Person, acquaint Deponent of the ill Treatment which she had received from Sir *W---m W---y*, Mr. *Ch--ts*, and his Wife; and of the Plot that had been laid forcibly to marry Deponent's Wife to said Sir *W---m*

against her Will and Consent, and afterwards charging her with being married to him—to such Purport and Effect as is mentioned in Deponent's Wife's Affidavit, which Deponent has heard read over, and carefully attended to. And the same corresponds in all material Circumstances to the Account given to her by Deponent as aforesaid: That Deponent being greatly astonished at such Information, Deponent was determined, to prevent any further ill Treatment, to publish his Marriage with his said Wife:—Which Deponent accordingly did, and soon after caused his Wife to be brought home to him, *with whom he hath ever since cohabited!* That when his Wife came home to Deponent, as aforesaid, she had not recovered her ill Treatment which she had received. For Deponent saith—That in a few Minutes after she entered Deponent's House, she fell into violent Fits—first fainting, or swooning away; and when she came to herself, raving against those who had used her ill—crying out—Those Rogues will swear away my Life!—Carry me to MY Hus-

BAND, MR. R-----N, ! although she was at that Time with Deponent ; and other frantic and disordered Expressions ; and appeared to Deponent to be some Time out of her Senses, occasioned, as Deponent believes, by such ill Treatment as aforesaid.

Then were read in Court the Affidavit of J—n H—k—n, Gent. W—m B—kes, and W—m A—ns Yeoman ; W—r C—ht, Barber ; W—m D—r, Taylor ; G—e W—on, Parish-Clerk ; and E—d B—m S—ll ; who all prove, that there was no Entry in the Register-Book of C—w—b Church, of the Marriage of Sir W—m W—y and A—n Wb—y, till the 29th or 30th of *November* ; and A—ns and D—r both affirm, that Mr. Cl—ts declared to them, Sir W—m and said A—n were not married ; and that he did not marry them---and that said Declaration was made many Days after the 23d of *September* last---Most of which is true---And so ends the formidable Charge.

The first Stroke that was given to the Accusers, came from the honourable Bench.---It appeared plainly by the Motion, that the Intention was, to include every Person in the Information that was present at Sir *W---m W---y*'s Marriage, in order to deprive him of all Assistance. But the worthy Judges were pleased to order Lieutenant *R---d W---* to be left out of the Information--This was giving the Parties accused one Evidence---And after reading the several Affidavits of *A---n* the Wife of *J---n R---ns*, Esq; *M---y N---tt*, *R---d D---*, *J---n H-k-n*, *J---n R---ns*, Esq; *W---m B---kes*, *W---r C---bt*, and *W---m D---*, It was ordered, that till the First Day of next Term be given to Sir *W---m W---*, Baronet, *J---n Cl---ts*, Clerk, and *A---* his Wife, to shew Cause why an Information, or Informations, should not be granted against them for certain Trespasses, Contempts, Conspiracies, and Misdemeanors, upon Notice of this Rule to be given to them respectively in the mean Time.

Here

Here is a Scene opened of glorious Mischief! Ruin is strongly marked in every Line! Incendiary Plots have been frequently laid against Persons of Worth and Distinction! But who were the Accusers? A Set of low, poor Wretches, who, upon Inquiry, were found to be infamous! But who are the ACCUSERS HERE? A Gentleman of Fortune! a *Member of P*-----t! a Lady of *Family!* of Fortune! and (what is still more strange) of UNBLEMISHED CHARACTER!

These are dangerous Incendiaries! for it was not to be doubted from their Education--their Fortune--their natural Abilities---but their Plan was well laid; and that they had provided and secured sufficient WITNESS to support the Charge. What then have the *Parties accused* to bring on their Side, to defend themselves against this formidable *Enemy?* Why--- nothing--- but TRUTH! supported by their own FAIR CHARACTERS!---And, indeed, in the worst of Dangers, there needs no other HELMET.

On *Thursday* the 24th of *May* last by

Appointment of the Judges, Council, on Behalf of the Persons complained against, shewed Cause why the Information moved for should not be granted; and for that Purpose produced the Affidavit of Sir *W——m W——y*; of which the following is the true Copy.

*Affidavit of W——m W——y, Bart.
sayeth,*

THAT he never entered into any Conspiracy with the said *J——n Cl——ts*, *A——n* his Wife, and *R——d W——y*, nor any other Person, to force the late Mrs. *Wb——y* against her Consent to solemnize a Marriage with Deponent; nor did he ever conspire with any Person to charge her with being married to him, other than as herein after-mentioned; but says, she was, by her own Free-will and Consent, actually and lawfully married to Deponent on the 23d Day of *September* last, in the Parish-Church of *C--l--w---b* in the County of *St—f—d*.

That

That the Acquaintance and Intimacy between Deponent and said Mrs. *Wb—y* did not begin, nor was it carried on, as she has set forth in her Affidavit, but in Manner following, *viz.* Deponent, upon a Return from a Visit, on the 6th of *June* last, was informed by his two Sons, (who were then at Home for the *Whitsun-Holidays*) that Master *Wb—ys* (two Sons of Mrs. *Wb—y's*) with a Man-servant, had, in Deponent's Absence, been at *W—y*, and walked in the Gardens there with Deponent's two Sons—At which Deponent was surprised, as there was not then, nor had there been for some Time, any Intimacy between Deponent's Family and said Mrs. *Wb—y's*; but, on the contrary, a great Shyness--That Deponent's Sons informed him, they were asked by Master *Wb—ys* to come to their House to drink Tea and play with them, if Deponent would give them Leave, which he consented to—And in the Evening, said Mrs. *Wb—y* sent a Servant with her Compliments to Deponent, and to desire that his Sons

might stay Supper with her ; to which Deponent also consented ; and about Ten o'Clock said Mrs. *Wh---*y sent them home with her eldest Son and his Maid, in her Coach :

That Deponent, reflecting on the Civilities shewed to his Sons, by said Mrs. *Wh---*y, waited on her the next Day in the Afternoon, to acknowledge the same, and expressed himself obliged to her for such Civilities, and stay'd and drank Tea with her :

Saith, He does not remember seeing Mrs. *Wh-----*y again, until Sunday the 14th of June last, at *C-l-w--b* Church in the Morning ; where, after Service was over, he handed her into her Coach. And in the Afternoon, Deponent's Servant, being at said Church, brought Compliments from said Mrs. *Wh---*y to Deponent, requesting his Company that Afternoon to drink Tea with Mr. and Mrs. *C--ynd* : Whereupon he waited upon said Mrs. *Wh--*y at her House, and there found said Mr. and Mrs. *C--ynd*, and stay'd about two Hours : That

That on *Thursday* the 18th Day of *June*, Deponent's Brother (Sir R—d W—y, Bart.) and his Lady came from *London* to Deponent's House, in their Way to *Ireland*; and that Afternoon Mrs. Wb—y sent her Compliments, hoping they were well after their Journey (although she had never seen them) and came herself the next Day in the Afternoon to make them a Visit:

That Deponent, about the Middle of *July* last, being about to set out for *London*, waited on said Mrs. Wb—y, to know if she had any Commands there, when she begged the Favour of him to bring her down a small Parcel in his Cloak-bag, which Deponent did:

That after Deponent's Return from *London*, he frequently visited, and constantly received Cards with Invitations from said Mrs. Wb—y; and, upon such Visits, was generally asked to stay Supper with her, which he always did, and stay'd most of the Evenings with her alone---That she, in the Months of *July* and *August* last, frequently dined
and

and supped with Deponent, at his House at *Wb—y*, — and particularly once when the Bishop of the Diocese, and several others, dined there :

That on *Friday* the 7th of *August*, Deponent and one Mr. *V—r*, (an intimate Friend of his) who was then at Deponent's House, visited Mrs. *Wb—y* at her House, and there saw Mrs. *E--d*, the Wife of Mr. *E--d*, who desired the said Mrs. *Wb—y* to fix a Day to dine with her at her House at *S--f--d*, which she accordingly did ; and Mrs. *E--d* asked Deponent and Mr. *V—r* to dine there also, and Deponent and Mr. *V—r* went to *S--f--d* in Deponent's Landau ; and soon after Mrs. *Wb—y* came ; where they stay'd till Eleven o'Clock, and then came back with said Mrs. *Wb—y*, in her Coach, being about eleven Miles, to which she made no Objection :

That after said 7th of *August*, he and said Mr. *V—r* met said Mrs. *Wb—y* at Mr. *Cl—ts's* House at *C-l-w—b*, where they drank Tea, played at Cards, and

and supped together—and sayeth, that the singular Behaviour and friendly Freedom (as Deponent then understood it) of said Mrs. *Wh—y* towards Deponent, not only at their several Meetings, but when they were alone, induced him to believe, that his Addreses to her, by way of Marriage, would not be disagreeable, and that he might well hope for Success therein—Therefore Deponent, in or about the Middle of *August* last, waited on said Mrs. *Wh—y*, and asked her Consent to marry him, and was answered in the following Words, as near as Deponent can remember: Sir *W—m*, you can do much better for yourself.—But upon further pursuing his Addreses, and earnestly desiring such Marriage, she did, at that Meeting, consent thereto, but enjoined Deponent to Secrecy; and some few Days after, desired that the Wedding might be so managed, as to be kept secret, for some particular Reasons she had to herself; and at same Time asked Deponent, if he thought Mr. and Mrs. *Cl—ts* might be trusted in the Secret, for that the
Wedding

Wedding could not be performed without their Knowledge and Assistance, to which Deponent answered in the Affirmative, and pressed to know her Reasons for keeping the same secret; (alleging they were both independent Persons)--- To which she replied, That if her Brother N--y was to know any Thing of it---he would be down Post in eighteen or twenty Hours, and would certainly prevent it; and that the *Wb---*y Family, at *H---yw---d*, would also be against it;

That Deponent then, and at other Times, endeavoured all in his Power to dissuade her from having said Marriage performed in secret; and proposed, that she should write to her Brother N---y, and acquaint him of Deponent's Addresses---To which she consented---And Deponent did then dictate a Letter, for that Purpose, to the Purport and Effect following---*viz.* "That Sir *W---*m
 " *W---*y, a neighbouring Gentleman,
 " had made Proposals of Marriage to
 " her; that she had no Objection to him
 " or his Proposals---They both were
 " very agreeable. But that she would
 " not

The Widow of the Wood. **FIF**

“not proceed in an Affair of such Im-
“portance without previously acquaint-
“ing him with it—Therefore hoped
“for his Consent and Approbation.”
Upon which, she asked Deponent, if
he would run the Risque of her Bro-
ther’s Answer, and be determined by
it. To which Deponent answered,
He would not, as she had already pro-
mised to marry him :

That in a Day or two afterwards,
Deponent asked Mrs. *Wb—y*, if she
had wrote to her Brother---She told
him, She had---and had sent the Letter
to the Post-house at *Great. H--yw--d--*
But Deponent believes, by Reason of
some Inquiries lately made, such Letter
was not sent to said Mr. *N—y* :

That Deponent continued afterwards
almost daily to visit said Mrs. *Wb---y* in
the most publick Manner---and it was
publick and notorious through the
whole Neighbourhood, that a Treaty of
Marriage was on Foot between them :

That during the Time of his making
his Addresses to said Mrs. *Wb—y*,
J---n R---ns, Esq; either resided at
St---f---d,

St--f--d, about five or six Miles from Deponent's House, and about four or five Miles from said Mrs. *Wb---y*'s, or at *B---d---t* --- situate pretty much as near to Deponent's House as said Mrs. *Wb---y*'s, and hath been informed, and believes, that Mr. *R---ns*, from the Middle of *July* to the 12th of *October* last, was never many Miles distant from those Places, nor above two or three Days, if any, out of the County of *St---f---d*. --- And believes, that Mr. *R---ns* was frequently informed, and fully apprised of Deponent's making his Addresses to said Mrs. *Wb---y* before Deponent's Marriage with her—And that Mr. *R---ns* was told, by several Persons, in the Month of *September* last, that it was reported and generally believed, that said Mrs. *Wb---y* was actually married to Deponent—And yet Deponent had never the least Intimation, either from Mr. *R---ns* or any other Person, that said Mr. *R---ns* was married to said Mrs. *Wb---y*, till he was informed thereof by Mr. *H-k-n* on the 20th of *October* last, as aftermentioned.

That

That not being able to prevail on Mrs. *Wb—y* to be married in publick, he, at her Request, consented to be married in private :

That said Mr. *V—r* being made privy to said intended Marriage, and a Confidant therein, as well by said Mrs. *Wb—y* as Deponent, about the 19th of *August* last became bound with Deponent in the usual Bond preparatory to Marriage by Licence ; and said Licence was filled up, and the same were executed at said Mr. *Cl—t's* House, in the Presence, and with the Consent of said Mrs. *Wb—y*, and when she was in her perfect Senses and Understanding :

That said Mr. *V—r* (at Deponent's Desire) on or about the 17th or 18th of *August* last, waited on said Mrs. *Wb—y*, in order to fix with her the Day of Marriage ; and said Mr. *V—r*, on his Return, informed Deponent---that she had fixed the same for *Tuesday* the 25th Day of *August* last, being the first Day of *Litchfield* Races, and had alledged---that as her Servants were to be there---
the

the Marriage might be the better kept secret.

Saith, That the Day of Marriage being fixed as aforesaid, Deponent did give Mr. V——r a Paper writing, which Deponent had prepared, and desired him to transcribe and take it to her *to be executed before the Marriage*; which Writing purported to be a Release of Dower which she might claim upon Deponent's Estate, in case of his Death before hers. Which Paper-writing Mr. V——r was to carry to her to sign, but was prevented by a Message from her---desiring to see Deponent, who waited on her accordingly---and produced the said Paper writing; which, after she had read and perused, she seemed to dislike, and said, that she would consider of it; on which Account, the Day of Marriage, which was fixed for the 25th of *August*, was postponed; and this Deponent then declared, that he could not marry her on any other Terms than that of relinquishing Dower as aforesaid, as it might greatly prejudice Deponent's present Children:

That

That having been informed, by three credible Persons, that R—d D—y, the chief Man-servant to Mrs. Wb—y, had spoke disrespectfully of her, Deponent sent for him, and on or about the 21st of *August* examined him as to the Truth of what he had said, in order, as much as in him lay, to stop any further Reports. When it appearing to Deponent, that said D—y had actually spoke the Words with which he was charged, and which very much reflected on his Mistress; Deponent reprimanded him for the same, but apprehended, that what said D—y had said, was spoke more out of Design to prejudice Deponent in his Opinion of his Mistress, and to prevent Deponent's Marriage, than from any Foundation of Truth--- For that in case of Deponent's Marriagewith her, said D—y would probably lose his Service--- That the Words so charged to be spoken by said D—y were—That He (said D—y) *could, or would, bring his said Mistress on her Knees for her former Sins,* or to that Effect; and it appearing to Deponent, that D—y had spoken

spoken those Words, Deponent proposed to him to sign a Paper, acknowledging his Crime, and to ask his Lady's Pardon, in order to clear her Character, which began to be aspersed by Reason of said Words: And said Mr. V——r (who was then present) having drawn up a Paper for that Purpose, the said R——d D——y then freely signed the same; which Paper is in the Words following, viz:

Whereas I R——d D——y Livery-Servant to Mrs. A---n Wh---y, Widow of Wh---y Wood, in the County of S---f---d, do hereby declare, in the Presence of the Rev. Mr. Cl——ts, Curate of the Parish of C--l---w---h, in said County, and B---n V——r, of the City of Dublin, Gent. That I have spoke some base and injurious Expressions of my Lady, the said Mrs. Wh——y, before some of Sir W——m W——y's Servants at W——y-hall: Now I do hereby declare, that my said Expressions, then and there uttered, were false and scandalous;

lous, and that I know nothing bad or criminal ever done or transacted by the said Lady—And do hereby most humbly ask her Pardon for the said injurious Expressions. Witness my Hand the 21st Day of August, 1752.

R— D—y.

Witness { J. Cl—ts.
B. V—r.

That some Time after said D—y had signed said Paper, Deponent being at Mrs. *Wh—y*'s House, she appeared very uneasy, and exclaimed vehemently against such Examination of her Servant, alledging, that from the Words said to be thus spoken, it might be supposed she had been guilty of some enormous Crime, derogatory to her Honour, or to that Effect. Whereupon Deponent told her, that, to convince her that he had no disreputable Thoughts of her, he would, upon the *Terms proposed*, marry her next Day publickly.

Saith, That afterwards, in the Month of *August*, but on what Day particularly

particularly cannot remember, but believes it might be about the 26th of *August*—said Mr. *Cl—ts* came to Deponent in the Afternoon, and told him said Mrs. *Wh—y* was at his House, and desired to speak to Deponent; and Deponent went with said Mr. *Cl—ts* to his House, and there found said Mrs. *Wh—y* in the Parlour, sitting on a Couch—And, Deponent sitting down by her, she began to talk about her Servant's being examined, imagining it might give Deponent an ill Opinion of her, and then began to cry, resting her Head on Deponent's Breast; and Deponent was much concerned at her Uneasiness, and said every thing in his Power to prevent her crying—That he did not think any Ill of her on Account of said Words—And to convince her of the Truth thereof, proposed to marry her the next Day, or when she pleased. Soon afterwards she ceased crying—and seemingly fainted away. Upon which Deponent desired Mr *Cl—ts* to bring her some Hartshorn, which was soon

soon brought, and held to her Nose. Deponent then called for a Glass of Water, and put some Hartshorn therein, and gave it her to drink; which she drank accordingly-- That soon after said Fainting-Fit, she seemed to fall into an hysterick Fit, and continued therein three Quarters of an Hour or thereabouts-- That during all the Time she was in those Fits, Deponent had his Arm under her Head-- That she, the said Mrs. *Wh---y*, often cried out, and said-- That *V---r* has done this to break the Match-- And then further said, I will never injure Sir *W---m*, or his Children-- And several Times cried out, and repeated those Words-- "Mr. *Cl---ts*, where's Sir *W---m*? -- I love him-- Send for him-- Pray, Mr. *Cl---ts*, send for him"-- and many more Words to the like Effect, though Deponent was then and there sitting by her, as aforesaid; and Deponent then asked Mrs. *Cl---ts*, if she thought Mrs. *Wh---y* knew what she said, alledging, he never knew, or heard, a Person speak so rationally in a Fit

a Fit before ; and believes, that when said Mrs. *Wb——y* was seemingly recovered from his Fit, he, and said Mr. *Cl——ts*, and his Wife, were standing by her, but is positive, that said Mr. *Cl——ts* had no Book in his Hand at that Time, or at any Time That Evening or Night, in Sight of Deponent ; and says, That soon after said Mrs. *Wb——y* was recovered, she drank Tea, played at Cards, supped, and spent the Evening at said Mr. *Cl——ts*'s, and seemed perfectly well ; was very merry—, and about Eleven o'Clock, voluntarily took Deponent home with her in her Coach, and, by the Way, seemed well pleased with his Company, and was very familiar. — That Deponent handed her from her Coach into her Parlour, and left her in good Health, and was afterwards, after staying a few Minutes with her, (it being late) carried home in her Coach— And says, that he has, to the best of his Knowledge, Remembrance, and Belief, above related the Whole of what happened

pened at Mr. *Cl——*'s House on the Day Mrs. *Wb——y* was in the Fit as afore said, relating to her and Deponent; and that the Account given thereof, by Mrs. *Wb——y*, in her Affidavit, is absolutely false.

Denies that, when said Mrs. *Wb——y* recovered from her Fits, or at any Time that Day, to the Knowledge or Belief of Deponent, said Mr. *Cl——* did charge said Mrs. *Wb——y* with being married to Deponent—Nor did he hear any Conversation of that Sort; nor doth believe, that any such Conversation passed; nor did Deponent ever charge, insinuate, or pretend, that said Mrs. *Wb——y* was ever married to him on the Day she was in such Fit as afore said, or at any Time till said 23d of September:

Denies, that any Paper-writing was ever signed by said Mrs. *Wb——y*, or tendered to her, of any such Purport as set forth in her Affidavit—And that she ever vomited that Day, when she appeared in such Fit, to the Knowledge or Belief of Deponent; or that she ever,
G that

that Day, or at any Time after, in the Hearing of Deponent, declared, or pretended, that any Wine, or other Liquor, given her by Mrs. C——s, had caused such Fit, or given her any sort of Illness:

Says, That from the Day Mrs. Wb——y had such a Fit as aforesaid, Deponent almost daily continued his Visits and Addresses to said Mrs. Wb——y, and she still freely consented to marry him:

That on *Saturday* the 29TH DAY OF AUGUST — said Mr. V——r, left Deponent's House, and went for *Ireland*, having before wrote a Letter to said Mrs. Wb——y, without Deponent's Knowledge or Privity; a Copy whereof he left with Deponent, sealed up, desiring Deponent to read it after he was gone; which Deponent did, and found the Subject of it was, to compliment Mrs. Wb——y on her approaching Marriage, and to expostulate with her concerning her signing the said Release of Dower, telling her, that Deponent ought to make a Provision thereout for any Children he

he might have by her; and as she had an affluent Fortune already for Life, which would revert at her Death to her Children by the late Mr. *Wh——y*, she ought not, in Prejudice to Deponent's Children, or any Children he might have by her, to insist on Dower; and telling her, that the Relations of Deponent's Family could not visit her on any Terms, as she would have it in her Power to injure the Children of Deponent's Family in so severe a Manner:

That in the Afternoon of said 29th of August, Deponent received from said Mrs. *Wh——y* the following Letter, all wrote by her own Hand, (*viz.*)

S I R,

I am obliged to go out this Afternoon, but shall return Home between Seven and Eight o'Clock: If you are not engaged at that Time, I shall be extremely glad to see you. I was this Morning favoured with a Letter from Mr. V——r; I am only sorry that he should judge so hardly of one, who, in spite of him, and all the

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World,

124 *The Widow of the Wood.*

*World, will ever be a sincere Wellwisher
to yourself and Family.*

I am,

S I R,

Saturday,
4 o'Clock,

Your Most Obliged

Humble Servant,

A— W^H—Y.

That in the Evening of said Day, De-
penont waited on Mrs. W^b—y at her
House, and from thence, till the 23d
Day of September, visited her almost
every Day, either at her own House, or
at Mr. Cl—ts's, and also discoursed
with her about the Application of her
Jointure, she insisting that Deponent
ought not to receive the Whole for his
own Use, when, at last, it was agreed,
that Deponent should receive only 300*l*.
a Year, of her former Jointure of 400*l*.
a Year; and that the Residue thereof,
together with 160*l*. a Year, which she
was otherwise intitled to, and in Posses-
sion

sion of, she should have to her separate Use; and that Deponent should provide for any Children he might have by her, in the same Manner as for his present younger Children; and a Paper-writing was accordingly prepared for that Purpose, by Deponent and Mr. Cl——ts, with her Consent.

Says, That said Mrs. Wb——y very frequently told Deponent, that she wished she did but love herself half so well as she loved him; that from the Time of his first making his Addresses to her, she never gave him any Denial:

That on or about the 20th or 21st Days of *September* last, Deponent and his Nephew, Lieut. R——d W——y, were invited by said Mr. Cl——ts to come to his House, play at Cards, and spend the Evening, which they accordingly did, where they found Mrs. Wb——y; stayed late—and, just before parting, Mrs. Wb——y asked Deponent, his Nephew, and Mr. and Mrs. Cl——ts, to come to her House the *Saturday* following, being the 23d of *September*

tember last, to drink Tea, and spend the Evening :

Says, That on that Day, soon after Deponent had dined, Mr. *Cl——ts* came to Deponent's House, seemingly in a great Hurry, telling Deponent and his Nephew, that Mrs. *Wb——y* had dined that Day at his House, and had sent him for Deponent and his Nephew to come directly, and that something had happened to prevent the Meeting at said Mrs. *Wb——y's* that Afternoon ; and accordingly Deponent and his Nephew followed Mr. *Cl——ts* Home, and as soon as Deponent came into the House, Mrs. *Cl——ts* met him, and told him, Mrs. *Wb——y* had a Mind to be married to him that Afternoon : Upon which Deponent replied, It was short Warning—However, he would then be married with all his Heart ; and *Cl——ts* then told Deponent, that said Mrs. *Wb——y* would then execute the Release of Dower ; and soon afterwards Deponent and his Nephew, after taking a little Walk out, went into the Church
at

at *C-l-w-b*, at the Door-place, front-
ing the Street, and then saw the said
Mrs. *Wb-y*, Mr. and Mrs. *Cl-ts*
in the Church:

That on same Day, previous to said
Marriage, the respective Writings
prepared and agreed on as aforesaid,
were duly executed by Deponent and
said Mrs. *Wb-y* in *C-l-w-b* Church,
—and particularly the same Writing
which Mrs. *Wb-y* sometime before had
refused to execute—and the same were
witnessed by Lieut. *W-y* and the said
Mr. *Cl-ts*.—After which, said Mr.
Cl-ts began to perform the Mar-
riage-Ceremony, and Deponent not ha-
ving a Ring, said Mrs. *Wb-y* offici-
ously and voluntary took a Ring from
her Finger, and gave it to Deponent to
use, at the proper Part of the Ceremo-
ny—And Deponent did accordingly
place the Ring on said Mrs. *Wb-y*'s
Finger in the usual Manner, and Lieut.
W-y gave her away to Deponent in
Marriage; and Deponent was then duly
married to Mrs. *Wb-y* in *C-l-w-b*
G 4 Church,

Church, by said Mr. Cl——ts, between the Hours of Five and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of *England* :

Says, That after the Ceremony was over, Deponent and his Wife, (as he then took her to be) said Mr. Cl——ts and his Wife, and Lieut. W——y, all returned to Mr. Cl——ts's House, and all drank Wine, and the usual Ceremonies of wishing Joy passed; and Lieut. W——y then drank Mrs. Wb——y's Health by the Name of Lady W——y, which she accepted, and afterwards drank Tea—But before they sat down to Cards, Mrs. Wb——y insisted on Mr. Cl——ts's *swearing on the Bible*, not to discover the Marriage till Deponent and he should come to Church again to be remarried publicly—or till she and Deponent should publicly declare the same—From which Resolution Deponent endeavoured to dissuade her, urging, that Mr. Cl——ts, being a Clergyman, had already given his Word and Honour

nour to keep the Marriage secret; notwithstanding which, she insisted on Mr. Cl—ts's fetching a Bible, and swearing thereon, to keep secret said Marriage; which Oath Mr. Cl——ts accordingly took. That the said Company, together with Mr. A—s and M——l Cl——ts (who afterwards came into the Room) sat down to Cards, stayed Supper, spent the Evening chearfully, 'till Eleven o'Clock at Night, and then the said Mrs. Wh——y took Deponent and his Nephew in her Coach over W——y Bridge, where the Roads to their several Houses parted; when Deponent and his Spouse got out of the Coach, and Deponent said to her, This is an unprecedented Thing, for a Bride and Bridegroom to part on the Wedding-Night! But Deponent says, That though they parted that Night, said Marriage between Deponent and said Mrs. Wh——y was afterwards, by her Free Will and Consent, duly consummated by her and Deponent, who, after said Marriage, were often together alone, both at Deponent's House,

and also in said Mrs. *Wh——y's* Bed-chamber, at her House at *Wh——y Wood* :

That before said Settlement of Paper-writing, as executed by Deponent, was reduced into the Form it now is, he received from the said Mr. *Cl——ts* a Draught thereof, which said *Cl——ts* told Deponent, he had wrote, by the Desire of Mrs. *Wh——y*, and that the same was dictated by her ; which Deponent, after making some Alterations, as to the Form, returned back to the said *Cl——ts* ; and saith, that the Paper-writing, so executed by Deponent, previous to said Marriage, is in the Words, and to the Effect following, viz.

Articles of Agreement made and concluded on the 32d Day of September, 1752, as follows :

WHEREAS a Marriage is intended to be solemnized between Sir *W——m W——y*, of *W——y* in the County of *St—f—d*, Baronet, of the one Part, and *A—Wh——y*, Widow and
Relict

The Widow of the Wood. 131

Relict of J—n Wh——y, of Wh——y Wood, in the said County, Esq; deceased, of the other Part—Now it is hereby agreed and consented to, on the Part of said W——m W——y, that as soon as the said intended Marriage takes Effect, that he, in Consideration of the annual Sum of Three hundred Pounds to be paid him by the said A—Wh——y, clear of all Deductions whatsoever, by half-yearly Payments—the first Payment of One hundred and fifty Pounds to begin and to be made within six Calendar Months from the Date hereof: That the said Sir W——m W——y does hereby quit all Right, Claim, or Pretence whatsoever, to all and every Part of the rest of her Jointure, Rent-charge, or Annuity, which the said A— is now in the actual Possession of; and that she shall receive the Whole, and every Part thereof, entirely to her own Use, provided the said annual Sum of Three hundred Pounds is duly paid to the said Sir W——m W——y by the said A—Wh——y, and not otherwise: And be the said Sir W——m W——y does also promise and

and agree to make the same Provision for, and give the same Portion to any Child, or Children, which he shall happen to have by the said A—Wh——y, as is made, or he shall give to any younger Child, or Children which he had by his former Wife Dame A—W——y. In Witness whereof I have set my Hand and Seal the Day and Year above written.

W——M W——y. (L.S.)

Signed, sealed and delivered in the Presence of us,

R——d W——y.

J—n Cl——ts.

Which said Paper-writing was wrote on a Six-penny Stamp, and, after the Execution thereof, delivered to said Mrs. Wh——y, who hath the same now in her Custody and Power, as Deponent believes, unless she hath destroyed the same :

Saith, That the Paper-writing, so signed by said Mrs. Wh——y, previous to said Marriage, is now in Deponent's Custody

Custody or Power, wrote on a Six-penny Stamp, and in the Words following, (viz.)

Articles of Agreement made and concluded on this Twenty-second Day of September, in the Year of our Lord 1752, between Sir W——m W——y of W——y, in the County of St—f—d, Bart. of the one Part, and A—Wh——y, Widow and Relict of J—n Wh——y, Esq; of Wh——y Wood, in the said County, and Parish of C-l-w—h, deceased, on the other Part.

WHEREAS a Marriage is intended to be had and solemnized between the said Sir W——m W——y and the said A—Wh——y, it is hereby agreed and consented to, on the Part of the said A—Wh——y, that in case she shall happen to survive the said Sir W——m W——y, and become his Widow, that then she consents and agrees to be satisfied and contented with her present Jointure, Dower,

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Dower, or Thirds, charged on, and payable out of the Estate and Lands of the said J——n Wh——y, her late Husband; and shall, nor will, not lay any Title, Right or Claim to any Jointure, Dower, or Thirds, from, or out of the Estate or Estates, Lands or Tenements of the said Sir W——m W——y: But does, for herself for ever quit Claim to, and discharge the said Estate, or Estates, Lands or Tenements, from any Payment, Sum or Sums of Money to her whatsoever. In Witness whereof I have set my Hand and Seal the Day and Year above-written.

A——Wh——y. (L.S.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in the Presence of us,

R——d W——y.

J——n Cl——ts.

Deponent saith, The said last-mentioned Paper-writing was originally dated the 22d Day of August, as it was intended then to have been executed; but previous to the Execution thereof, the

the Word *August* was erased by Deponent, and the Word *September* inserted by Deponent instead thereof: But Deponent did not alter the Date of the Month, which was the Reason of its being dated the 22d of *September* instead of the 23d, the Day it was executed. And Deponent saith, his said Nephew is a Witness to the Execution of said Paper-writing; and that he did not come into *St—f—shire* on his said Visit to Deponent, till the Week in which Deponent was married as aforesaid, and did not stay with Deponent above nine Days in the Whole—and, for a Year or two before that Time, his said Nephew had not seen said Mrs. *Wh—y*, as Deponent believes, from which, it is very manifest, that said Writing, so executed by said Mrs. *Wh—y*, was not executed in the Month of *August*, as set forth in her Affidavit, and that all her Pretensions and Allegations, concerning the same, are merely fictitious:

Saith, That said Mrs. *Wh—y* never executed any other Paper-writing to
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Deponent, nor was any other Writing between her and Deponent, or in any Manner concerning them, ever offered or tendered to her, to sign, to the Knowledge or Belief of Deponent, than said Paper-writing so executed by her, and witnessed by said Lieut. *W—y* as aforesaid :

Saith, That soon after said Marriage, said Mrs. *Wh—y* requested Deponent to part with his House in *London*, saying, She did not care to go there, but rather chose to live altogether in the Country ; and, that when both their Incomes were added together, there would be a Saving for younger Children, in case they should have any : And further said, That as he, Deponent, liked *London*, he might go there for two or three Months, whenever he pleased, and leave her in the Country— To which Deponent answered, that he would take her there the next Spring, and afterwards he would do as she pleased : And says, That she then told Deponent, that her Maid, *M—y N—tt*, knew of her's
and

and Deponent's Marriage, or suspected it:

Saith, That on *Tuesday* the 26th Day of the aforesaid Month of *September*, said Mrs. *Wb—y*, together with Mr. and Mrs. *Cl—ts*, and Lieut. *W—y*, and other Company dined at Deponent's House; and, without Ceremony, she, said late Mrs. *Wb—y*, as Lady *W—y*, then seated herself at the Head of Deponent's Table; and though the rest of the Company, after Dinner, went out to walk for two Hours, and upwards, she, Mrs. *Wb—y*, chose rather to stay with Deponent, which she accordingly did, no other Company but themselves being left there. And on the next Day afterwards, Deponent went, in the Afternoon, to the House of said Mrs. *Wb—y*, and stayed Supper with her; —and said Mrs. *Wb—y* then desired Deponent to go from Home for a few Days or a Week, in order to remove any Suspicion of their Marriage, which Deponent consented to; and saith, That about Eleven o'Clock at Night, when
De-

Deponent was preparing to return home, she, said Mrs. *Wh—y*, fell into Tears, and, leaning her Head on Deponent's Neck, continued crying for some Time; at which Deponent was much concerned, imagining her Uneasiness arose on his going from Home. Deponent said, he had no Business out, and would stay; to which said Mrs. *Wh—y* replied, You must go; I will make myself as easy as I can till your Return.— And accordingly Deponent set out the next day, and returned on the *Sunday* Morning following, being the 1st of *October*, and soon after his Arrival sent a Card to the late Mrs. *Wh—y*, to acquaint her with his Return, and that he would see her in the Afternoon.— And then coming to the House of said Mrs. *Wh—y*, in the Afternoon, found her in Bed, with Part of her Cloaths on, seemingly very ill, which he was very much surpris'd at, as he had but a few Days before left her in perfect Health; and Deponent then asked her the Cause of her Illness, and she answered, that she

she had got a fore Throat, a violent Cough, and Pain in her Side—and she then and at other Times, often said to Deponent, that they must go to *C-l-w—b* Church, and be remarried publicly.

Says, That on or about the 5th or 6th of the aforesaid Month of *October*—she, said Mrs. *Wh—y*, desired Deponent to go to her late Husband's Mother, Brother, and Sister, at *H—yw—d*, and consult with them if she, said Mrs. *Wh—y*, might not have the Guardianship of her Sons by her former Husband; for that she apprehended she could not have the same by the Will of her late Husband; and if they refused their Consent thereto, to desire that Deponent should have the Care of her and said Children.— And Deponent went to *H—yw—d* accordingly, and had a very satisfactory Answer from said Mrs. *Wh—y*, the Mother, and Mr. *E—d Wh—y*, the Brother-in-law of said Mrs. *Wh—y*:

Saith, That on *Thursday* the 12th of *October* last, said late Mrs. *Wh—y* sent a Card to him, Deponent, by her Ser-

Servant R——d D——y, about Eleven o'Clock in the Morning, desiring to see Deponent in the Evening—And Deponent, reading the Card, told the Servant, (as the Truth was) that he was just going to ask the Lady how she did, and accordingly Deponent went to see her; and meeting with M——y N——tt, her Servant, at the Door, asked her how her Lady did, and was answered, *That she was very comical.* Upon which Deponent asked said M——y N——tt what she meant by saying her Mistress was comical—and said M——y N——tt replied—*Really, Sir, I think she is very comical!* and then told Deponent, that her said Mistress had got up before Eleven o'Clock, and dressed herself—and that she had but little Sleep in the Night, and she found herself faint and fatigued with dressing, and was laid down on the Bed—And Deponent being informed, that she was awake, went up into the said Mrs. Wb——y's Room, and there found her in, or lying on the Bed, quite dressed, with only a Quilt over her; and she

She then complained with being taken ill and faint with dressing herself, and of having had little or no Sleep in the Night; and then desired Deponent to shut the Window-Shutters, and draw the Curtains, for that she believed she could get some Sleep; which Deponent did—and she then desired to see Deponent in the Evening, upon which Deponent went away.

And on the same 12th of October, in the Evening, Mr. *J—n H—k—n*, an Attorney at *St—f—d*, sent a Message to Deponent from the House of Mr. *J—n D—n*, at *W—y* Bridge, that if he, Deponent was not engaged, he, said *H—k—n*, would wait upon Deponent, having something to say to him; to which Message Deponent answered, that he should presently come that Way, (it being in the Road to Mrs. *Wh—y*, whither he then soon intended to go) and would call upon him; which Deponent accordingly did—And said Mr. *H—k—n* then told Deponent, that he was come on a very disagreeable Subject, which

which was, to let Deponent know that he, said Mr. *H—k—n* had, that Afternoon, carried Mrs. *R—ns*, meaning the late Mrs. *Wh—y*, to her Husband, Mr. *R—ns*, at *St—f—d*;— and further said, that they (meaning the said Mr. *R—ns* and said late Mrs. *Wh—y*) had been married a long Time, and had lain together at *B—d—t*, and at her said late Mrs. *Wh—y*'s House, and also at said Mr. *R—ns*'s House at *St—f—d*.—And also said to Deponent, that her Illness (meaning said Mrs. *Wh—y*'s) was all feigned; and that he, said *H—k—n*, by what he had heard, and was told, thought said Mrs. *Wh—y* had been then Lady *W—y*;— and that he, said *H—k—n*, was sent by Mr. *R—ns* to bring his Wife Home :

Says, he was greatly surpris'd at what said Mr. *H—k—n* related to Deponent; for, till that Time, Deponent had not the least Knowledge, Intimation, or Belief, that said Mrs. *Wh—y* was married to said *J—n R—ns*, as before set forth; and expressed such surpris to
said

said *J—n H—k—n*; — and Deponent did then insist to know directly when, and where, and by whom, said *R—ns* and *Mrs. Wb—y* were married — And did also desire to speak to the Lady — To which said *H—k—n* answered, that he would deliver Deponent's Message that Night to said Mr. *R—ns*, and bring his Answer the next Morning — And says, said Mr. *H—k—n*, the next Morning, being the 13th of *October* last, came to Deponent's House, and there acquainted him, that said Mr. *R—ns* had sent said *H—k—n* to let Deponent know, that he, said *R—ns*, and *Mrs. Wb—y* were married in *June*, then, and now, last past, at *C—le Church*, near *St—f—d*, by the Rev. Mr. *C—e*. — Whereupon Deponent told said Mr. *H—k—n*, that Deponent did then decline desiring to speak to the Lady, or to that Effect; and told him, that he needed not to say any more — and sent his, Deponent's, Compliments to Mr. *R—ns* and the Lady, which was all that happened between Deponent and said *H—k—n*,
to

to the best of Deponent's Remembrance and Belief; Deponent, upon such Information of a prior Marriage between said R——ns and Mrs. Wh——y, not thinking it proper to discover said Marriage between her and Deponent:

Says, That from the First of *October*, beforementioned, said Mrs. Wh——y continued, whenever Deponent visited her, seemingly very ill; complaining of a sore Throat, a Cough, and a Pain in her Side, until the aforesaid 12th Day of *October*, when she was carried to *St-f—d* as aforesaid. But Deponent says, that besides the few Days he went from Home, at said Mrs. Wh——y's Desire, there was scarce a Day, but that he, Deponent, visited her; yet never saw any Physician, or Apothecary, or Surgeon, to bleed her, though she was often requested by Deponent to consent thereto: — But she always made Answer to him, that she had often been in that Way before, and had taken no Medicine—and that her Complaint would go off, and to that Effect:

Denies,

Denies, That any such Conversation passed betwixt said Mrs. *Wh—y* and Deponent, on the Morning after said 26th of *August* last, or at any other Time afterwards, relating to the Liquor pretended to be drank, or the Paper-writing, pretended to be signed by said Mrs. *Wh—y*, at said *Cl—ts's* House, on the said 26th of *August*, or the Marriage pretended to be then and there had between said Mrs. *Wh—y* and Deponent—or the Book pretended to be then produced, as is most falsely and untruly charged in and by the Affidavits of said late Mrs. *Wh—y*, *R—d D—y*, and *M—y N—tt*, or to any such Purpose and Effect as is charged and expressed in said Affidavits: But on the contrary, Deponent says, that said late Mrs. *Wh—y*, on the Morning after she had been in such Fit, at Mr. *Cl—ts's*, as aforesaid, when Deponent went to wait on her, appeared to Deponent in perfect Health, and good Spirits, and received Deponent with great Civility and Respect.

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Also

Also denies, That any such Conversation or Discourse passed between said late Mrs. *Wb—y* and Deponent a few Days, or at any Time before, or after the 23d of *September*, about Deponent's meeting with Discouragement from said Mrs. *Wb—y*, or desisting from making any further Addresses to her, or about his proposing to leave *W—y*, as is most falsely and untruly charged in her Affidavit; or any Conversation, or Discourse, to that, or the like, Purport and Effect; or which had any the least Tendency thereto. But, on the contrary, Deponent says, The said Mrs. *Wb—y*, at all Times he was in her Company, and in all Conversations he had with her, relating to their intended Marriage, after he had proposed himself to her as aforesaid, previous to their said Marriage, on said 23d of *September*, expressed great Regard and Affection for Deponent:

Further says, That on next Day, being *Sunday* the 24th of *September*, he, Deponent, after Morning-Service was over

over at *C-l-w—b* Church, went to said Mrs. *Wh—y* in the Church yard, and handed her to her Coach; and after Evening Service was over, on same Day, and not before, said Mrs. *Wh—y* told Deponent, that her Servant, *M—y N—tt*, either knew of her, said Mrs. *Wh—y*'s and Deponent's Marriage, or suspected it, or to that Effect; and seemed uneasy at said Marriage being publicly talked of.—But Deponent denies, that any such Conversation or Discourse passed between said Mrs. *Wh—y* and Deponent, either in the Church-yard at *C-l-w—b*, or at the House of said Mrs. *Wh—y*, on said 24th or 25th Days of *September*; relating to the Report of said Marriage—and the Inquiry and Examinations made about the same, as is falsely charged in said Mrs. *Wh—y*'s Affidavit:

Denies, That any such Conversation or Discourse passed between said Mrs. *Wh—y* and Deponent, on the 26th of *September* last, or on any other Day, about indemnifying said Mr. *Cl—ts*

about swearing to the Marriage, or about forcing her to be publicly married ;— or to go to live with Deponent, or about any Rudeness, or ill Treatment, which said Mr. *Cl——ts* had shewed to her ; or about sending for her Brother Mr. *N——y*, as is falsely and untruly charged in the Affidavits of said Mrs. *Wh——y* and *M——y N——tt*, or to any such Purport and Effect—or that Deponent ever heard of any such Discourse or Conversation, till he read and heard the same from the said Affidavits ; nor did Deponent ever threaten her, or use such Persuasions to induce her to marry Deponent as mentioned in her Affidavit ; or threaten her in any Manner whatsoever ; or tell her, that he would bring his Coach and take her away by Force, or to any such Effect : Nor did said Mrs. *Wh——y* ever ask Deponent for any Paper signed by her, to the Knowledge and Belief of Deponent :

Saith, He hath, according to the best of his Knowledge, Remembrance, and Belief, set forth a full and true Account

count of all the Transactions between Deponent and said late Mrs. *Wh—y*; and saith, that so much of the Account given by her in her said Affidavit of said Transactions, as is contrary to, and not consistent with the Relation thereof, as above given by Deponent, is entirely false and fictitious :

Saith, That since said Mrs. *Wh—y* hath thought proper to cohabit with said *J—n R—ns*, Deponent hath often desired and requested to have a proper Affidavit from Mr. *C—e* (who 'tis said, married said *J—n R—ns*) of the Time and Manner of the Marriage of said *J—n R—ns* with said Mrs. *Wh—y* in *June* last, or prior to the Time of Deponent's Marriage; but Deponent could never get such Affidavit, or any Manner of Satisfaction of the Privy of said *J—n R—ns*'s Marriage — By which Means Deponent knows not whether his said Marriage be valid or not, or whether he is a married Man or a single Man : But from the Inquiries Deponent hath made from

the Behaviour of said J—n R——ns and said late Mrs. Wb——y, during the whole Time of this Deponent's Courtship, and even since his Marriage, and from the many Declarations of said J——n R——ns and said late Mrs. Wb——y, which Deponent, upon Occasion is ready to prove; and from a Variety of other Facts and Circumstances, Deponent hath great Reason to believe, that said J—n R——ns was not married to said Mrs. Wh——y till the 12th of October last; and therefore Deponent is very much afraid that said late Mrs. Wb——y is Deponent's Wife.

Affidavits

*Affidavits of J—N CL—Ts, Clerk, and
A—N his Wife; sworn 24 April, 1753.*

“ For the Sake of my Reader, I shall
“ take the Liberty to omit in the Affi-
“ davits of these two worthy Persons,
“ such Passages as correspond with, and
“ corroborate the Facts in the foregoing
“ copious Affidavit of Sir *W—m W—y*,
“ which the Law requires; and only
“ insert the following material Ab-
“ stracts, (*viz.*)”

Deponent *J—n Cl—ts* saith, That
a Day or two before the 21st of *August*
last, Mr. *V—r* (who was then upon a
Visit at Sir *W—m*'s) told Deponent,
that Sir *W—m* wanted to speak with
him: Upon which Deponent went to
W—y-hall, where Sir *W—m* told
him, He had sent for Deponent to con-
sult him, as a Clergyman, and a Gentle-
man, about this Marriage; and that Mrs.
Wh—y had consented to marry him
on *Tuesday* then next, (25 *August*) and

asked Deponent, if he had a Licence; and this Deponent answered, That he had Blank-Licences by him. Sir *W—m* then enjoined him to Secrecy, alledging, that Mrs. *Wh—y* desired it might be kept secret:

That he breakfasted with Mrs. *Wh—y* at her own House, the next Morning—and, after Breakfast, Deponent, at her Request, walked with her in the Garden; and she then told Deponent, that she supposed Sir *W—m* had apprised him of their Design of being married; and said, that she had consented to marry him on *Tuesday* then next—and then pointed towards Deponent's House, which is about half a Mile distant, and adjoining to *C-l-w—b* Church-yard; and she then observed in what Manner the Marriage could be had with the greatest Secrecy—and said, that she should go in at the Chancel Door, and not be seen by her Servants from her House—But, to prevent all Suspicion, she thought it would be most adviseable for her to go into the Church through a private Door, which

which Sir *W——m* has to go in to his Pew, in one of Deponent's Wife's Gowns;—and injoined Deponent to the greatest Secrecy; and then told Deponent, she intended to see Mrs *Cl——ts* that Afternoon:

That about Four o'Clock that Afternoon Mrs *Wh——y* came to Deponent's House on Foot, alone, saying, that she walked out of Choice; for, as she intended walking to Deponent's House on the *Tuesday* following, to be married, she did it then to avoid the Suspicion of her Servants—and that she could contrive to send some of them out of the Way—and that she would send *Richard* (meaning *R——d D——y*) to *Litchfield* Races:—That about Five o'Clock, Sir *W——m* and Mr. *V——r* came, and, after some Time, Mr. *V——r* took Deponent aside, and asked him to get a Bond and Licence ready for the Marriage of Sir *W——m* and Mrs. *Wh——y*, that they might be filled up whilst they were together:

That on *Sunday* the 23^d of *August* last, Deponents, by Invitation, dined at Mrs. *Wb—y*'s, and, after Dinner, she took them, together with Mr. *N—lls*, of *St—f—d*, in her Coach, to *C-l-w—b* Church, and brought Deponents back again to her House, and Sir *W—m* came there about Seven o'Clock in the Evening, and offered a Paper for Mrs. *Wb—y* to sign, purporting a Renunciation of Dower from Sir *W—m*'s Estate; which Paper Deponent had been before apprised of by Sir *W—m*, and had before acquainted Mrs. *Wb—y* thereof—That Mrs. *Wb—y* looked upon the Paper, and put it betwixt her Gown and her Stays, and told Sir *W—m*, She would consider of it—but soon afterwards Mrs. *Wb—y* spoke to Deponent *J—n Cl—ts*, in relation to said Paper, and complaining of it as an ungenerous Act, said, She was sure Sir *W—m* would never have thought of such a Thing, if that *V—r* had not put it in his Head; and added, that Sir *W—m* and she under-

understood one another's Minds very well—and that he was to be intitled to her Jointure, and she to the Thirds of his Estate ; and that there was no Occasion for any Writing betwixt them—And she then refused, as Deponent believes, to sign said Paper ; upon which the Marriage, which was to be the *Tuesday* following, was postponed.

The said *J—n Cl—ts* saith, That from the Intimacy he had with Mrs. *Wh—y*, he took the Liberty soon after to expostulate with her about her intended Marriage, and desired her to consider the Disproportion in Years betwixt her and Sir *W—m*,— and desired her to consult her Brother *N—y* on the Occasion ; to which she answered, “ You know, Mr. *Cl—ts*, that we “ are entirely independant.— He has “ pleased himself—and I see no Reason “ why I may not do the same.”—And she then asked this Deponent what (was he in her Case) he would do—To which Deponent answered, *He would not advise her to sign the Paper—*and at the

the same time added, *He thought she might obtain better Terms :*

Saith, That some Day between the 20th and 27th of *August* last (the same Day that *D—y* was examined at Sir *W—m's*) Mrs. *Wb—y* came to Deponent's House, and said, There had been fine Work at *W—y-hall* that Morning; and inquired of Deponent what had happened that Morning at Sir *W—m's*, in Regard to the Examination of her Servant *D—y*;—and said to Deponents, *This is V—r's Doings, who is an Enemy to me, and will do every thing in his Power to break the Match!* And Deponent *J—n Cl—ts* then told her, that he had been at Sir *W—m's* that Morning, and that her Servant, *R—d D—y*, had been charged with dropping some unguarded Expressions, reflecting upon her Conduct—and being much importuned by her to tell her the Particulars—Deponent did inform her, as he believes the Truth to be, That said *D—y* had reported, to Sir *W—m's* Servants—that his Mis-

tress

treſs muſt take care of him—for he could bring her on her Knees for her former Sins, or Crimes—and that Sir *W——m* being informed thereof, had ſent for and examined *D——y*, and his Servants, before whom the Words were ſpoken—But *D——y* denied ſpeaking them—This Mrs. *Wb——y* ſeemed much affected and uneaſy at the Report, and Sir *W——m*'s Examination into the ſame—Upon which Deponent told her that he believed Sir *W——m* did not credit any ſuch idle Report, but that he ſtill retained a great Affection for her—or to that Effect :

That after the Time of the Fit, and after the Time when Mrs. *Wb——y* pretends by her Affidavit ſhe was ſo ill treated by Deponents, and had *Laudanum* given her—and a forced Marriage intruded upon her, ſhe continued her Viſits very frequently to Deponents at their Houſe, and received Deponents at her Houſe in that free and eaſy Manner as heretofore—And, particularly, Deponents, on the 30th of *Auguſt* laſt, after

after Evening-Service, went by Desire of Mrs. *Wh—y*, with her, in her Coach, on a Visit to Mr. *A—f—n's*, where they found Lord *Ch—ynd*, Sir *W—r B—t*, Sir *W—m W—y*, and other Company—and from thence she carried Deponents in her Coach to her own House—and as they were returning from Mr. *A—f—n's*, Mrs. *Wh—y* told Deponent, *J—n Cl—ts*, in the Coach, that her Children were, in a great Measure, dependant upon her; —That the Estate was greatly incumbered with three Jointures; that there was indeed an Allowance of 90*l.* *per Annum* for their Childrens Maintenance, yet he had never received a Farthing of it.— Upon which Deponent told her, These were strange Reasons why she should reserve Part of her Jointure for the Sake of her Children— Deponent being willing to take that Opportunity to shew his Regard to the late Mr. *Wh—y's* Memory! with which Observation she seemed well pleased, and in-

intreated Deponent to make a Representation thereof to Sir *W——m*.

Deponent, *J——n Cl——ts* says, That Sir *W——m*, coming that Evening to Mrs. *Wb——y*'s House, he took the Liberty to acquaint him, in the Presence and Hearing of Mrs. *Wb——y*, with the Conversation that had so happened between them in the Coach—And Deponent said to Sir *W——m*, that he hoped he would consider of it, and make better Terms for Mrs. *Wb——y*, than what had been already proposed—To which Sir *W——m* answered, That he would take the Matter into Consideration.— After which, Deponent (by Reason of the Alteration in the Style) did not see Mrs. *Wb——y* till the 16th, 17th, or 18th of *September*; when she told Deponent, that some busy impertinent Fellow had informed her Brother, *N——y*, of Sir *W——m*'s Courtship to her—and that, in a Letter, he had expressed himself, that he had rather follow her to her Grave, than that she should be married to Sir *W——m*, or to

to that Effect. — Upon which Deponent said to her — That if her Friends were so averse to it, she had better let the Matter drop. — To which she replied, *No — I shall either run distracted or die, if I have him not!* and added, that if Deponent would marry them privately, in a Room in his House, and swear to keep it secret, she would, first and last, make it as good as Five hundred Pounds to him; and, to induce him thereto, she declared she was married to her former Husband in a Room; and promised Deponent that she should engage Sir *W—m* to give him a Bond of Indemnity; if Deponent would marry them as she required. To which Deponent gave a Denial; and told her, that he would never be concerned in any such Thing, without a proper Authority:

That from the 17th or 18th of *September* to the 23d, he believes he was with Sir *W—m* and Mrs. *Wh—y*, every Day, at one of their Houses, by their Desire, endeavouring to settle the Agreement betwixt them, previous to
 of their

their Marriage; and says, that an Agree-
ment was settled between Sir *W—m*
and Mrs. *Wb—y* before the 23d of
September.

Both Deponents say, That on *Satur-*
day, the 23d of *September* last, Mrs.
Wb—y came to Deponent's House
before dinner, which they were sur-
prised at, as she had before engaged
Deponents to spend that Evening at her
House with Sir *W—m* and Lieut.
W—y; and, as an Excuse for her
coming, she told Deponents, that ha-
ving received a Message that Morning
from Mr. *C—ynd*, of *B—on*, that he
intended that Afternoon to drink Tea
with her—Answered, that she was en-
gaged; and therefore came out of the
Way to avoid Mr. *C—ynd*, saying, She
did not care that he should see Sir
W—m at her House.

Deponent, *M—y Cl—ts*, says, that
soon after Dinner, on the said 23d of
September, Mrs. *Wb—y* asked Depo-
nent to take a Walk in the Garden;
which Deponent did—and Mrs. *Wb—y*
being

to that Effect. — Upon which Deponent said to her — That if her Friends were so averse to it, she had better let the Matter drop. — To which she replied, *No — I shall either run distracted or die, if I have him not !* and added, that if Deponent would marry them privately, in a Room in his House, and swear to keep it secret, she would, first and last, make it as good as Five hundred Pounds to him ; and, to induce him thereto, she declared she was married to her former Husband in a Room ; and promised Deponent that she should engage Sir *W—m* to give him a Bond of Indemnity, if Deponent would marry them as she required. To which Deponent gave a Denial ; and told her, that he would never be concerned in any such Thing, without a proper Authority :

That from the 17th or 18th of September to the 23d, he believes he was with Sir *W—m* and Mrs. *Wh—y*, every Day, at one of their Houses, by their Desire, endeavouring to settle the Agreement betwixt them, previous to
 01 their

their Marriage; and says, that an Agreement was settled between Sir *W—m* and Mrs. *Wh—y* before the 23d of September.

Both Deponents say, That on Saturday, the 23d of September last, Mrs. *Wh—y* came to Deponent's House before dinner, which they were surprised at, as she had before engaged Deponents to spend that Evening at her House with Sir *W—m* and Lieut. *W—y*; and, as an Excuse for her coming, she told Deponents, that having received a Message that Morning from Mr. *C—ynd*, of *B—on*, that he intended that Afternoon to drink Tea with her—Answered, that she was engaged; and therefore came out of the Way to avoid Mr. *C—ynd*, saying, She did not care that he should see Sir *W—m* at her House.

Deponent, *M—y Cl—ts*, says, that soon after Dinner, on the said 23d of September, Mrs. *Wh—y* asked Deponent to take a Walk in the Garden; which Deponent did—and Mrs. *Wh—y* being

being in a cross walk opposite to her own House, said to Deponent—I have been looking about my House, and see no Body stirring—I have sent R——d (D——) to St—f—d; — I have observed no Body stirring in the Street, or about your House—Now is the Time to be married—I don't know when I shall have the like Opportunity—or to that Effect— And then desired Deponent to send to ask Sir W——m and his Nephew to come thither.

Deponent, M——y Cl——ts, then went and desired her Husband to go to Sir W——m to inform him of Mrs. Wb——y's being there, and to desire his Company.

Deponent, J——n Cl——ts, agreeable to such Request, went to Sir W——m, and engaged him and his Nephew to come to Deponent's House; and, upon Deponent's Return, Mrs. Wb——y asked Deponent, if he had transcribed, fair, the Articles betwixt Sir W——m and her: To which this Deponent answered, he had; and gave her the Paper thus

thus transcribed, upon Stamps, which was the same Paper that was executed as after-mentioned— and which she read over several Times, and said, It was in every Respect agreeable—but denies, that he asked him for any other Paper that Day: And soon after Sir *W——m* and his Nephew came to Deponent's House, and in a short Time afterwards Sir *W——m* asked Deponent, in the Presence of Mrs. *Wh——y*, to marry him to her—which Deponent scrupled to do—but they both pressed this Deponent then to marry them; and engaged themselves, on their Words and Honours, that they would, in three Weeks or a Month's Time, come to C-l-w—h Church, and be remarried in a publick Manner, which induced Deponent to marry them:

Say, That Deponent, *J——n Cl——ts*, after Sir *W——m* and Mrs. *Wh——y* had executed to each other, the Marriage-Agreements between them, as hereafter-mentioned, then, in the Afternoon of said 23d of September, between

Five and Six o'Clock, in C-l-w—h Church, married Sir W——m and Mrs. Wb——y according to the Forms and Ceremonies of the Church of *England*; and that Mrs. Wb——y, during the whole Ceremony, spoke distinctly and with an audible Voice—and neither Sir W——m nor Deponent being provided with a Ring, she took a Ring from off her own Finger, and gave it to Sir W——m to put on again, and said R——d W——y gave her in Marriage to Sir W——m, in the usual Manner.

Deponent, J—n Cl——ts, says, That as soon as the Ceremony was over, Sir W——m and Mrs. Wb——y pressed and engaged Deponent to make no Entry of their Marriage in the Parish-Register, until after their intended Remarriage was over. Nevertheless Deponent entered, at the Foot of the Licence, immediately after the said Marriage, thus: † Memo' Sir W——m W——y and Mrs. Wb——y, the Parties within mentioned, were married, by me, on Saturday the 23d *Sepr.* 1752.

J. CL——TS.

Both Deponents say, That Mrs. *Wb*——y and Sir *W*——m injoined Deponent in the most solemn Manner to keep secret the Marriage—Sir *W*——m saying, he was not prepared with Cloaths suitable to the Occasion; and Mrs. *Wb*——y then saying, That she would have Sir *W*——m gain the Consent of Mrs. *Wb*——y, her late Husband's Mother, for fear she should lose her Guardianship of her Children, which would break her Heart: And Mrs. *Wb*——y then said, That she would write, by the next Post, to her Brother, and gradually open Sir *W*——m's Intention of his Addresses before she owned the Marriage, and believed she should soften him, and bring him to an Approbation of it, notwithstanding, by his Letter to her some Time before, he had expressed great Dislike to it—And say, that all the Persons present at the Marriage, besides the Persons married, were Deponents and *R*——d *W*——y.

Denies, That he or Sir *W*——m (to his Knowledge) ever used any Threats
to

to induce her to be married, or remarried, or upon any other Occasion—or that Deponent ever intruded himself into her Company without her Consent; or that he was ever guilty, to his Knowledge, of any Indecency, Rudeness, or Incivility, to her; and, more particularly, he denies, that he ever went into her Bedchamber and made such Attempt to drag her out of Bed, and to force her to be remarried—or, that there was any such Conversation or Expressions between them, upon that, or any such-like Occasion, as sworn in the Affidavits of Mrs. *Wb—y*, *D—y*, and *N—tt*:—Nor does Deponent know any Circumstance in his Behaviour that could give the least Pretence for such an Assertion:

Denies, That Mrs. *Wb—y* ever asked him, or any other Person, (to his Knowledge) for any Paper-writing, pretended to be signed by her the 26th of *August*; there being no such Paper-writing signed by, or attempted to be procured from her, on the 26th of *August*,

gust, or any other Day, to the Knowledge of Deponent— but says, That in *C-l-w—b* Church, on the 23d of *September*, immediately before the Marriage of Sir *W—m* and Mrs. *Wb—y*, they each of them executed a separate Paper-writing, containing the Substance of said Agreement between them; both which were attested by Lieut. *W—y* and Deponent; and Mrs. *Wb—y* then gave the Paper, signed by Sir *W—m* (being the same which Deponent had so copied on Stamps and delivered to Mrs. *Wb—y*, as aforesaid) to Deponent to keep for her— And saith, That about three or four Days before the 12th of October last *she sent for Deponent, and desired him to bring the said Paper to her; which he did; and delivered the same into her own Hands:*

Saith, That as he had such Assurances from Sir *W—m* and Mrs. *Wb—y* that they would come to Church to be publickly remarried, he did not enter the Marriage in the Register till the 10th of *November*, when

De-

Deponent directed G——e W——on, the Parish-Clerk, to enter the same; (such Entries being usually made by the Clerk) and it does appear, from the Register, that the Child of Je——b P——ce, who was baptized on the 25th of *September*, is entered before said Marriage; and that the Entry of said Baptism was made without the Knowledge of Deponent, by the Parish-Clerk, who was not present at the Marriage—and admits, that he certified a Copy of such Entry of the Marriage, on or about the 16th of *December* last, for E——d Wb——y, Esq; as mentioned in B——kes's Affidavit.

Both Deponents say, That Mr. H——k——n, on the 12th of *October* last, came to Deponent's House, and searched the Register for the Burial of A——m J——n, and took a Copy of the Entry thereof—but never pretended that he came to search for the Marriage of Mrs. Wb——y; and believes he searched the Register from *October* 1751, to 25th of *September* last—and found such Entry of the Baptism of Je——b P——ce, as
men-

tioned in his Affidavit, and no Entry then of the Marriage of Sir *W—m* and Mrs. *Wb—y*; that having Occasion to leave the Room, found, upon his Return, *H—k—n* copying the Entry of the Baptism of *J—b P—ce*:

That after such Search, said *H—k—n* told Deponent *J—n Cl—ts*, That he had heard at *E—le—ll*, that Mrs. *Wb—y* was married to Sir *W—m* at Eleven o'Clock at Night, by Candle-light, by Deponent, and that *H—k—n* had contradicted such Report, and vindicated Deponent; upon which Deponent told him, that he was obliged to him for so doing, for that such Report was false, or to that Effect—At which *H—k—n* said, He was glad to hear it, on Deponent's Account; and would vindicate him in all Companies; and that he was soon to dine at the Bishop's, and would satisfy his Lordship—and immediately wrote down to this Purpose—*This is to satisfy whom it may concern, that I did not marry Sir W—m W—y, Bart. to Mrs. A—n Wh—y,*

I

Widow—

Widow — AND TENDERED SAID PAPER TO DEPONENT TO SIGN ! which Deponent refused, though *H—K—N* INTREATED HIM SO TO DO. And *H—k—n* being asked, by Deponents, to stay Dinner, said, He was to dine at Sir *W——r B—g—ts's*; but, instead of going thither, went immediately to *Wh——y Wood*, and *carried the late Mrs. Wh——y, on Horse-back, behind him, to Mr. R——ns's, at St—f—d.*

Deponent, *J—n Cl——ts* says, That being under such Engagements as afore-said, to keep the Marriage secret, he admits he did inform Mr. *H—k—n* and other Persons, that he had not married Sir *W——m* and Mrs. *Wh——y*, — but what particular Words or Expressions he used, does not remember; but says, If he made use of any particular Protestations or Affeverations, they were in regard to the Circumstances, which were untruly related by said *H—k—n*, of the Marriage being performed at Eleven o'Clock at Night, by Candle-light.

Both

Both Deponents admit, That, in order to avoid further Reports and Inquiries about the Marriage, they did inform Mr. *H—k—n*, that they went into the Church to take a Copy of the Inscription of Sir *W——m*'s Family-Monument; or amuse him with some such Story, to such Effect. But, at that Time, they were in Expectation that Sir *W——m* and Mrs. *Wb——y* would have been publicly remarried in a short Time, and considered *H—k—n* as asking those Questions merely to gratify his Curiosity, and not with a Design of insnaring Deponents, and turning their Answers into a Criminal Accusation — the said *H—k—n* not giving the least Hint that Mrs. *Wb——y* was married to Mr. *R——ns*, nor had Deponent the least Foundation to suspect any such Thing.

Deponent, *M——y Cl——ts*, saith, That she did not tell Mrs. *Wb——y*, on the 23d of September last, that she expected the Miss *S——yds*, or used any Arguments with her to make her stay, nor had she any such Conversa-

tion with her, about Sir *W——m* and Mr. *R——ns*; nor did she ever tell her, that she might marry Sir *W——m* first, and Mr. *R——ns* afterwards, as charged in her Affidavit—but says, That a few Days after *D——y*'s Examination, Mrs. *Wh——y*, talking about the Report made by him, told Deponent, that People in that Part of the World were very busy in raising Stories—that they had reported she was going to be married to Mr. *R——ns*; but she would do Mr. *R——ns* the Justice to say, He never was the Man that asked her the Question, and that she would swear it:

Says, That after the Marriage of Sir *W——m*, the late Mrs. *Wh——y* shewed the greatest Fondness and Regard for him—and, particularly, she remembers, that on the *Tuesday* after the Wedding, when they were at Dinner, she took the Head of Sir *W——m*'s Table, and acted as his Lady; and, after Supper, took a Walk with Sir *W——m* out of the Parlour into his Dining-Room—and Deponent being desirous to go home, went

went into the Dining-Room to take Leave, and there found Lady *W——y* (as Deponent then took the late Mrs. *Wh——y* to be) leaning on Sir *W——m's* Bosom, with her Arm about his Neck :

That some short Time afterwards, the late Mrs. *Wh——y* told Deponent, *M——y Cl——ts*, in her Bedchamber, at her own House, when she was represented as being sick, that Mr. *C——ynd*, of *B——on*, had called twice to see her, and she had denied herself, as she had before done to other Company ; and that she was forced to say, She had a sore Throat, and a bad Cough—and then clapp'd her Hand on her Side, and declared, that her Illness was all counterfeit ; for that she would see no Body but those who were agreeable to her ; and at another Time told Deponent, that she had given Sir *W——* 300 *l.* a Year of her Jointure—that she shewed she loved him, and that he was welcome to it—and she would endeavour to live upon the Remainder—but *would not go to W——y.*

*Affidavit of B——N V——R, Gent.
sworn the 20th of April, 1753;*

From which I shall only give the Reader some necessary Abstracts, as most Part of this Gentleman's Affidavit is fully recited in the foregoing Narrative.

* * * * *
* * * * *

This Deponent saith, That after the 7th of *August*, there were frequent Messages and Visittings between Mrs. *Wb——y* and Sir *W——m W——y*, who often met together at Mr. *Cl——ts's*, where they spent several Evenings; Deponent being also present: And from the singular Behaviour of Mrs. *Wb——y* towards Sir *W——m*, 'twas the Opinion of Deponent, and many others, that she wanted him to put the Question of Marriage to her, which was soon afterwards done; and Deponent was privy to the Courtship and Treaty, and was intrusted by both as a Confidant therein.

And

And in a Day or two afterwards, at the Request of Sir *W—m*, he waited upon Mrs. *Wb—y*, to fix the Day of Marriage; and she appointed the 25th of *August* for that Purpose:

* * * * *
* * * * *

That on *Saturday* the 22d of *August*, Deponent, at the Request of Sir *W—m*, transcribed a Paper which he had prepared for Mrs. *Wb—y* to execute before the Marriage; which Paper contained a Renunciation of Dower on the *W—y* Estate; and Deponent intended to have carried it to Mrs. *Wb—y* the next Day, but was prevented by a Message from her, desiring to see Sir *W—m* that Evening, and not Deponent. On which Deponent replied, I understand the Meaning of this; the Lady thinks she can deal better with you than with me—And Deponent gave the Paper to Sir *W—m*, who went with it that Evening to Mrs. *Wb—y*, (as he believes) for, at his Return, he told Deponent, that after perusing the

I 4 Paper,

Paper, she seemed to dislike it; and said, she would think of it—and Sir *W—m* added, that unless she signed it, there should be no Marriage on the 25th, as agreed on; for he would not injure his younger Children: And accordingly the Marriage was postponed:

* * * * *

That on *Saturday* the 29th of *August*, Deponent left *W—y-ball* to go to *Ireland*; but on that Day, previous to his setting out, he wrote, and sent, a Letter to Mrs. *Wb—y*, upon the Subject of her then intended Marriage; and thereby intended to shew the Reasonableness of her signing the Release; which was the only Letter Deponent wrote to her; and, upon his going away, he left a Copy of the same with Sir *W—m*.

Affidavit

*Affidavit of Lient. R——D W——y;
sworn the 10th of April, 1753; saith,*

THAT on *Thursday* the 21st of *September* last, he came to *W——y* on a Visit to his Uncle; and, on that Evening, Deponent accompanied Sir *W——m* to drink Tea at Mr. *Cl——ts's*, where they met Mrs. *Wh——y*;— and the Company sat down to Cards, staid Supper, and spent the Evening together:

That soon after Deponent's coming to *W——y*, he was informed, that his Uncle courted Mrs. *Wh——y*; and by Deponent's Observation of their Behaviour towards each other, he believed such Report to be true:

That on *Saturday* the 23d of *September*, Sir *W——m* told Deponent, that they were invited to drink Tea and spend the Evening at Mrs. *Wh——y's*— but, just before they were preparing for their Visit, Mr. *Cl——ts* came to Sir *W——m's*, and acquainted him and Deponent—

that Mrs. *Wh—y* had, that Day, dined with him; and Sir *W—m*'s and Deponent's Company were desired that Afternoon at Mr. *Cl—ts*'s—and they went there accordingly—And said *Cl—ts*, taking Deponent aside, told him, that his Uncle and Mrs. *Wh—y* had then appointed to be married; and that Deponent was desired to give the Lady away—And Sir *W—m* then acquainted Deponent, to the same Effect, and enjoined Deponent to Secrecy—saying, It was the earnest Desire of the Lady, that it should be so—and that the Ladies, in these Cases, expected to be obliged:

That soon afterwards, *Cl—ts* desired Sir *W—m* and Deponent to take a Walk some Distance, saying, he would have the Church-door next the Street open on their Return—and he would direct Mrs. *Wh—y* and Mrs. *Cl—ts* to go in at another Door:

That Sir *W—m* and Deponent came into *C-l-w—b* Church accordingly, between the Hours of Five and Six
in

in the Afternoon, and there saw Mrs. *Wb——y*, Mr. *Cl——ts*, and his Wife; —and, in the said Church, previous to the Marriage, Deponent saw each of them, the said Sir *W——m W——y*, and Mrs. *Wb——y* sign, seal, and execute, a separate Paper-writing, to which Deponent and Mr. *Cl——ts* subscribed their Names as Witnesses: Which Papers contained the Agreements to be entered into previous to the Marriage:

That on said 23d of *September*, soon after the Execution of the Writings, the Ceremony of Marriage, between Sir *W——m W——y* and Mrs. *Wb——y*, was, according to the Rites of the Church of *England*, performed in the said Church, by Mr. *Cl——ts*; and Deponent gave Mrs. *Wb——y* to Sir *W——m* in Marriage, in the usual Manner—And saith, That Sir *W——m*, not having a Ring, Mrs. *Wb——y* took a Ring from off her Finger, and gave it to Sir *W——m* to put it on again at the proper Part of the Ceremony, which he accordingly did; and Mrs. *Wb——y* repeated her
Part

Part of the Marriage-Ceremony distinctly and plainly :

That after the Marriage, the Company returned to Mr. *Cl——ts*'s, and the usual Compliments of Joy were then wished to the Parties married, and accepted by them—and Wine was brought into the Parlour—and Deponent drank to the new Bride, by the Name of Lady *W——y* ; which Appellation she did not seem displeased with—That they staid at Mr. *Cl——ts*'s till about Eleven o'Clock at Night, and Mr. *A--ns* (a Lieutenant in the Navy) was also there ; and the whole Company played at Cards, supped, and spent the Evening very merrily—And when the Company parted, Mrs. *Wb——y* took Sir *W——m* and Deponent in her Coach, in her Way home, over *W——y* Bridge, where Deponent and Sir *W——m* alighted— and Sir *W——m* then said to her, Madam, this is a very unprecedented Thing, for a Bride and a Bridegroom to part thus the first Night—However, Sir *W——m* and Mrs. *Wb——y* each

each returned to their own Houses— That whilst he was in the Church, Sir *W——m* invited Deponent to spend the next *Christmas* at *W——y-hall*, saying, he was assured he would be also wellcome to his Aunt, addressing himself to the late Mrs. *Wh——y*; and she then assured Deponent, she would be glad to see him :

Saith, that a Day or two after the Marriage, Sir *W——m* expressed to Deponent his Surprise at Mrs. *Wh——y*'s Conduct, in being so forward to bring about the Intimacy between them ; and gave Deponent an Account how the same began :

That on the 26th of *September*, Deponent dined with the late Mrs. *Wh——y*, at *W——y*, when she took Place at the Head of the Table, without Ceremony ; and after the Marriage, Deponent wrote to his Father, Sir *R——d W——y*, Bart. and his Brother, Cornet *W——y*, concerning the Marriage ; and in a few Days after, joined his Regiment at *Manchester* ; where he was informed, that
Mrs.

Mrs. *Wh——y* was gone to reside with Mr. *R——ns*, at which Deponent was surpris'd— and gave an Account then of her Marriage to Sir *W——m*.

Affidavit of J——s A——ms, Gent.
sworn the 23d of February, 1753.

This Gentleman came as a Visitor to Mr. *Cl——ts* the latter End of July, and stayed with him till the Beginning of *October*.—The following Passage in this Affidavit may be thought Material.

Deponent well remembers, That on the 23d of *September* last, Mrs. *Wh——y* came unexpectedly to Mr. *Cl——ts's*, about Eleven o'Clock in the Morning, and she dined there that Day—and immediately after Dinner, Mrs. *Wh——y* and Deponent passed about an Hour in Conversation and singing together: After which, Deponent and Mr. *Cl——ts's* Son went a shooting, and came Home again

again to Tea; and Deponent then found Sir *W——m W——y* and his Nephew, Lieut. *W——y*; and after Tea, Deponent played at Cards with Mrs. *Wb——y*, Sir *W——m*, his Nephew, and Mr. *Cl——ts*'s Family, by Turns, till Supper-time—and at Supper Capt. *W——y* drank to Mrs. *Wb——y* by the Name of Lady *W——y*, whereby Deponent understood and believed, that she was married that Day to Sir *W——m* whilst Deponent walked out.

Then followed the Affidavits of *E——b Cl——ts*, (the eldest Daughter of Mr. *Cl——ts*) *M——y G——win*, *A——e* the Wife of *W——m C——man*, and *J——n G——win*; — who all swear they saw, from different Places, Sir *W——m* and his Nephew—and Mrs. *Wb——y*, with Mr. and Mrs. *Cl——ts*, going in to the Church, at different Doors.

Affidavit

*Affidavit of J—N A—P; sworn the
24th of April, 1753; saith,*

HE lived as a Servant with Mr. *Cl—ts* for a Year and Three-Quarters, ending in *November* last; and, from about the Middle of *August*, until the first Week in *September*; (when Mr. and Mrs. *Cl—ts* went from Home for a Week) and from that Time, for the Remainder of the Month of *September*, scarce a Day happened but Mrs. *Wh—y* visited at Mr. *Cl—ts*'s, or, he and his Wife visited Mrs. *Wh—y*, and sent Cards or Messages to each other:

That on or about the 25th or 26th of *August*, (but which of the Days Deponent cannot remember) Mrs. *Wh—y* dined at Mr. *Cl—ts*'s; and, after Dinner, she sent Deponent with a Note to her Housekeeper for some Cloaths, which Deponent brought back to Mrs. *Wh—y*, who went up Stairs to dress, and came down dressed; and

and then appeared seemingly well——
And saith, That, about an Hour afterwards, Sir *W——m W——y* came, and 'twas soon after rumoured, that Mrs. *Wb——y* was in a Fainting-Fit—and Deponent then saw Miss *Cl——ts* fetch a Glass of clean Water from the Pump, and Mrs. *Cl——ts* fetch a Bottle of Hartshorn-Drops, which Deponent well knew to be Hartshorn only, having but a little Time before brought it from the Apothecary's — That Mrs. *Wb——y* being recovered, Deponent was called into the Parlour to wait at Tea, and then saw Mrs. *Wb——y* put some of the said Drops into her Tea ; and after Tea she played at Cards, and was seemingly very well, both before, at, and after Supper ; and about Eleven at Night she went away with Sir *W——m* in her Coach.

Says, That on *Saturday* the 23d of *September*, Mrs. *Wb——y* came to Mr. *Cl——ts's*, unexpected ; and Deponent waited at Dinner that Day, and very little Wine, or other Liquor, was then drank—

drank— and all the Company drank the same Liquor ; and, when Dinner was over, Mr. Cl——ts went into his Study ; and Mrs. Cl——ts and Mrs. Wh——y went into the Garden— and Deponent was afterwards sent out on an Errand— and, upon his Return, he went into the Parlour to keep up the Fire, and observed Mrs. Cl——ts's two Daughters looking earnestly towards the Church— Deponent looked that Way also, and very soon saw Mrs. Wh——y and Mrs. Cl——ts coming out of the Church at the Chancel Door, and then saw Sir W——m and his Nephew come from the Church, cross the Church-yard, to Mr. Cl——ts's House :

That Deponent then took two Bottles of Wine into the Parlour, and, having put some Glasses on a Waiter, handed the Wine about, and then heard Lieut. W——y drink Mrs. Wh——y's Health, *by the Name of Lady W——y.*

Affidavits

Affidavits of *A—n W——r*, *A——m*
L——n, and *T——s G——s*, Ser-
vants to Sir *W——m W——y*, give
an Account of the frequent Visitings
of Sir *W——m* and Mrs. *Wb——y*,
and of their often seeing *D——y* at
their Master's House inquiring for
Sir *W——m*, or Mr. *V——r*.

L——n and *G——s* both swear
to the Expressions of *R——d D——y*;
—That in the Butler's Pantry, before
them, and *J——n H——k——n*, Gardener,
(since dead) *D——y* said— If their
Master did marry his Lady, she would
take care of him—that he had so talk-
ed to his Mistress—*That he could bring*
her on her Knees for her former Sins.

Affidavit

*Affidavit of G——E W——ON,
Parish-Clerk; sworn the 24th of
April, 1753; saith,*

TH A T he was at R——y the 23^d of *September* last, and on his Return was informed, that Sir W——m and Mrs. Wb——y were married, and such Report was current, and generally believed — And as Mr. Cl——ts (Deponent's Master) took no Notice of it to him, on the *Sunday*, Deponent did, on the *Monday* following, make an Entry in the Register of the Baptism of J——b P——ce.

Saith, That when Mr. Cl——ts saw the Entry, which was a Day or two afterwards, he was much displeased at Deponent, and told him, he should not have inserted it, *without* having acquainted him of it, for that *he had something which should have been entered down first in the Register.* And Mr. Cl——ts then charged Deponent not to make any more Entries in the Register; but

to

to insert all Christenings, Burials, and Marriages, on a loose Sheet of Paper, and he would see to the regular Entry of them himself:

That from that Time to the 10th of November, no Entry was made in the Register; and, on the Morning, Mr. Cl——ts told Deponent, that he would then have the Entries made, and gave Deponent the Licence for the Marriage of Sir W——m W——y, and ordered Deponent to enter the Marriage in the Register, from a Memorandum at the Bottom of the Licence; which Deponent did, Mr. Cl——ts standing by him——

That he did not declare to Mr. H——k——n, or to any other Person (to his Knowledge or Belief) that he made such Entry on the 29th or 30th of November, or any other Day than the 10th of November.

Saith, It was owing to his not being properly informed of their Marriage, that occasioned him to enter the Baptism of P——ce before, whereas it ought to have been

been entered after the Marriage; and saith, That Mr. Cl——ts would not suffer Deponent to make any Alteration or Erasure, but ordered him to put the Figure (1) to the Marriage, and the Figure of (2) to the Baptism, to shew how they ought to have been inserted as to Priority.

And thus end these tedious Affidavits; many of which I have omitted; and the whole employed the Court three long Days.

When the two leading Counsel for the Motion, in their Reply, had displayed their Oratory, *and shewn the finest Flowers of their Rhetoric*; the Judges proceeded to give Judgment. The Lord Chief Justice Le, Sir M——n W——t, Sir T——s D——n, and Sir M——n F——n, were unanimous in their Opinion, that the whole Design of the Affidavit of Mrs. R——ms, and the rest on that Side, were to deceive the

the Court—That those Falsehoods had been opposed by Facts, that could not lie—That the Marriage of Sir *W——m W——y* had been fully proved—and by her free Consent; by which the whole Complaint fell to the Ground, and that the Rule ought not only to be discharged—but discharged with Costs!

One of Mr. *R——ns's* Council rose up, and modestly offered to remove that unusual Sentence on the Prosecutor, in a Motion, by observing that his having the Lady to *WIFE*, he hoped would be thought *Punishment* enough for him. But the Reply from the *B——h* was—That as Mr. *R——ns* had claimed the Lady as his *Wife*, he must be answerable for her Actions; and they must make an Example of People who commenced such unjust Prosecutions.—

Upon the Motion for this Information, it was represented to the Court, That the Lady was a Woman of great Family and Fortune! beautiful in her Person!

Person! of a virtuous Education, and unblemished Character! with many Encomiums upon her Sense!—

That she is a Lady of Family and Fortune, and agreeable in her Person, is certain; that her Education was virtuous, and her Character, till this unhappy *Æra*, unblemished, is confirmed by all who have the least Knowledge of her; and her Understanding, if we judge of her by her Conversation and Manners, before she engaged in this infamous Action, may well merit the Encomiums bestowed on it.

In many Places in the Lady's Affidavit, What scurrilous Names has she bestowed on the Deponents! What Oaths and Imprecations has she put into the Mouth of Mr. *Cl——ts*! In one Part of it to Mrs. *Cl——ts* are the following Words—(*viz.*) “ Deponent
“ desired Mr. *R——ns*'s Name might
“ not be called in Question with such a
“ Sett of VILLAINS AS THEMSELVES!
“ and added, that Deponent mortally
“ hated Sir *W——m* and all his GANG.”
It is doing but common Justice, to
take

take a short Survey of the Characters of the Persons this Female Libeller has treated in this infamous Manner, for the Information of such of my Readers as may be Strangers to them.

Sir *W——m W——y* Bart. is of an ancient Family and Estate in *St—f—d—shire*, and has passed through a long Life with the utmost Regularity.—He is remarkable for Civility and good Breeding; and has behaved in every Station with the greatest Decorum. In all his Dealings with the World he has acquired the Character of a Man of Probity; And his Oeconomy in his Family and private Affairs is justly admired.

Mr. *C/——ts* has been twenty Years Vicar of the Parish of *C-l-w—b*, where he now dwells—and has led a Life free from Reproach: He is respected in his Office; and as a modest worthy Clergyman, is well received by all Persons of Condition in his Neighbourhood.

Mrs. *C/——ts* is a virtuous, notable Wife, and a good Mother to a numerous
K Family

Family of Children—She is well descended, and acceptable to all the Ladies round her.

Lieut. R——d W——y (Sir W——m's Nephew) is the eldest Son of Sir R——d W——y, Bart. of *Ireland*, and Heir to Two Thousand Pounds a Year: A young Gentleman of Worth and Honour.

These are the Persons this base Traducer has been pleased to call a *Gang of Villains and Conspirators*! But without the Gift of Prophecy, I may venture to affirm, *they are such a Gang*! as she will never more have the Honour to hold Society with, during the rest of her unhappy Life!

And because her Man-servant, R——d D——y, has appeared in the Course of this History as an impudent, indiscreet Fellow; and since nothing is more notorious than that D——y, for some Time past, has been more familiar with her than he ought to be, I must beg Leave to declare my Opinion, that those Freedoms proceeded from his *Discovery of*
some

some unguarded Transaction of his Lady's.

There is no Truth more obvious than That in common Life; if a *Servant* gets into a *criminal Secret*, from that Moment his Deportment alters, he assumes an unmannerly Freedom, and soon discovers his Advantage over his unhappy Mistress; and thus his Ignorance leads him to make an improper Use of it, generally to the Ruin of both.

It is well known Mr. R——ns was a constant Visitor at the Beginning of that Year 1752; and that he entirely absented himself, at least, from publick Visits, after the Beginning of the Month of *June*; that, in a Conversation with Mrs. Cl——ts, the Widow said, she knew the Aptness of People to raise Stories; that they said she was going to be married to Mr. R——ns, *who never asked her the Question—and she would swear it!* but her Brother Wb——y declares she owned to him Mr. R——ns had made his Addresses to her for a WIFE, and SHE REFUSED HIM!—From these Remarks, it is certain, that

MR. R——NS WAS A LOVER! and the Consequences we may be able to arrive at and explain.

By this Defeat, in the Court of K——g's B——h, of the Party who moved for the Information, all those who were any ways aiding and abetting that iniquitous Design, began to tremble! and the foremost in that List was the *Rev. Mr. C——e!* who, I am well informed, very soon began to know that Remorse which every good Mind must feel, at the Misfortune of being seduced into a bad Action.

The Report of this was soon conveyed to the Bishop of L——bf——d and C——y, — a worthy Prelate! whose noble Birth, and exemplary Virtues, add Lustre to the Lawn! His Lordship soon made St——f——d in his Way, and called on the *Rev. Mr. C——e*, who, at the Sight of the Bishop, fell on his Knees to implore Forgiveness for his Crime, and then confessed, that what he had related about Mr. R——ns's Marriage, in *June*, was false, and begged
Leave

Leave to make a full Discovery ! The Bishop was so good to promise him Forgiveness, upon declaring the true Time of his marrying Mr. R——ns ; but insisted on his making an Affidavit of what he was going to relate.

And the Rev. Mr. C——e accordingly made an Affidavit, and thereby set forth, That on the 7th of *October* 1752, and not before, J——n R——ns, Esq; applied to him to marry him, the said J——n R——ns, to Mrs. An——Wh——y, at her House at Wh——y Wood ; which he refused to do : But on the 9th of *October*, and not before, he did, at the earnest Request of Mr. R——ns, and upon his saying that the Lady was with Child, marry him to her, at Mr. R——ns's House in St——f——d, between the Hours of Ten and Twelve at Night—and, that R——d D——y, the Lady's Servant, gave her away in Marriage ; and that on the same Day Mr. R——ns desired him to enter the Marriage as on the 9th of *June* preceding, again alledging that the Lady was with Child ;

and accordingly, to preserve the Lady's Character, he did register the Marriage, partly on a Rasure, as of the 9th of *June*, and dated the Licence accordingly; he not knowing that she was then the Wife of any other Person.—

Mr. C——e further declared, that, after the Ceremony was performed, the Lady said, that she supposed Cl——ts, that black Rogue, or Devil, would swear that she was married to Sir W——m W——y; at which Mr. C——e was very much surpris'd, and desired a Person of the Law might be consulted; which was agreed to——

That it being afterwards discovered that Mr. R——ns was all the Day of the 9th of *June* at B——d——t, and consequently could not be married on that Day, as set forth in the Register, Mr. H——n, Attorney, was consulted thereupon; who advis'd, that the Entry of the Marriage should be altered from the 9th to the 16th of *June*; and accordingly Mr. C——e, by the Advice of the said H——n, and, upon having a Note
given

given him of a Thousand Pounds, to indemnify him, on Account of marrying the said R——ns, did make such Alteration. Which Note was afterwards exchanged for a Bond, prepared by the *Person thus consulted*; wherein the said J——n R——ns, became bound to the said C——e, in a Thousand Pounds Penalty, to indemnify him on Account of such Marriage.——

Mr. C——e also declared, that he often solicited Mr. R——ns to accommodate Matters with Sir W——m W——y; for which he was rebuked by the said Mr. R——ns and his Lawyer; and that he, the said C——e, has often attempted and offered to declare the true Time of the Marriage to the said Lawyer, who always answered quick, that he desired to know nothing of the Secret, for that it would hinder him from being an Evidence in the Affair; and refused to hear the true Account of the Marriage — That Mr. C——e being sent for by the Bishop, this *Gentleman of the Law* advised C——e to

wait on his Lordship, and to stick to the Marriage on the 16th of *June*; though he, the Lawyer, well knew, that was not the true Day of Marriage—That Mr. R——ns also applied to C——e, and desired him to make an Affidavit, that he was married in *June* last; which C——e not only absolutely refused to do, but some Time after, in the Presence and Hearing of the above-mentioned Lawyer, reproved Mr. R——ns, for swearing he was married in *June* (which Mr. C——e had but lately heard of) and then told him, “That he the
 “said R——ns, well knew it was not
 “true:” But neither of the Persons mentioned made any Answer. — It was further said, by Mr. C——e, that upon a Rumour that the Lady was to be indicted for Bigamy, the said learned Lawyer importuned him to go out of the Way during the Assizes, to prevent his being examined as a Witness; and desired him to go to *Oxford*, and offered to furnish him with Money to

to defray his Expences; but he refused to except his Offer.

Mr. C — e also declared, that he had been under a continual Uneasiness ever since the Validity of the Marriage had been called in Question; and should, long since, have discovered the true Time of the Marriage, had this *honest Lawyer* permitted him so to do.

As soon as the *now truly Reverend Mr. C — e* had made this Discovery, a Messenger was dispatched to Mr. R — ns, then in the Neighbourhood, to give an Account of it.

This so alarmed him, that he immediately fled his Country, and, in a few Days, was met at *Calais!* from thence he went to *Boulogne*, where he now remains, surrounded with all those Horrors that must offend a guilty Man!

When the Lady heard of this, she privately sent for her Children, went away with them by Night, and hath ever since absconded; and conceals her two Sons against an Order of the Lord High Chancellor, who has appointed their

their Grandmother *Wb——y* their Guardian.

It now appears an incontestible Truth, that this incomparable Widow of the Wood, is the undoubted Wife of Sir *W——m W——y*; and my Readers need not now be informed which Party deserves the real Name of *Conspirators!*

A Prosecution is now begun in the Spiritual Court for a Divorce, *a Mensa et Thora.*

Before I take my Leave of my amazed Readers, I doubt not but they will expect me to help them to a Clue, by which they may get out of this Labyrinth.

Most of the capital Actions of human Life proceed from apparent Motives! but how shall we account for the Motives that induced this once-happy Lady thus to work out her own Destruction? Good Heavens! from what an Height of Happiness has she fallen!——Then let us view her with Compassion—let us consider her as born of a Family of
Dis-

Distinction! — well educated! — delicately bred! — sent into the World with a Noble Fortune! — the Wife of a worthy Gentleman! — left in Widowhood with two fine Boys, well provided for! — herself well jointured! — And in this envied, happy Situation, it is presumed, that ONE FALSE STEP brought on this irretrievable Ruin! for it is frequently seen in human Life, that we often run headlong into a Danger to avoid the Apprehension of it! This, I am of Opinion, was the Case of this unhappy Lady! — and, on maturely weighing every Motive, every Circumstance that might seduce or compel her to deviate thus notoriously from the Paths of Virtue and Honour — I account for it in the following Manner — (*viz.*)

—— That Mr. R——*ns* made early Addresses to her in her Widowhood — that she loved him — and that in the Beginning of the Month of *June* last, he found her alone, in an unguarded Hour, and took an Advantage of it! that soon after she either found or thought

thought herself with Child ! and without a Husband !— neglected by her Lover— distracted with her own Fears ! and, that in these sad Circumstances, she made a Friend and Confidant of a low-minded, artful Man, and fell into the Practices of that *Iago* ! who, from that fine Field of growing Mischief, promised himself a profitable Harvest !

It was then she threw out the Lure for Sir *W——m W——y*, and succeeded to her Wishes ; and, after many Artifices, she married him on the 23d of *September*— but engaged the Persons present at the Marriage to Secrecy— and the next Day sent her Agents to attack Sir *W——m* and Mr. *Cl——ts* with the Report, to have *Witnesses of their denying the Marriage* ! This left the Door of Hope open for her vagrant Lover ! that if, at last, he should relent, and incline to marry her, she might have him with some Degree of Safety— And, accordingly, on the 9th Day of *October*, he sent for her to his own House, and married her that very Night

Night, as their own Parson, Mr. C——e, has since confessed—and, on the 12th; Mr. R——ns sent H——k——n to fetch his Wife home to a publick Declaration. ——— Now let us suppose, that her Marriage with Sir W——m, sixteen Days before, was a Secret to Mr. R——ns, and knowing the *Favour* the Lady had granted him in *June*, of which she was then pregnant, I have Charity enough to hope *that* was the Motive that induced Mr. R——ns to desire Mr. C——e to register the Marriage on the 16th of that Month; that then they declared their being married, and it appeared from *that Date*, the Lady's *Honour* might be safe; and, in case of *Issue*, the Child *legitimate*! All this might become him as a Man of Humanity, and a Gentleman; but what shall we say to his AFFIDAVIT in a Court of Judicature, that he actually *married* the Lady in *June*? ——— Why—that he was then an Apostate from Honour; and fallen into the Practices

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Practices of the *same Man*, that was,
no doubt, the chief Agent, in all this
complicated Scene of Villainy.



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